PALL MALL GAZETTE

An Evening Newspaper and Review.

No. 7426.—Vol. XLIX. *FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4, 1889.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY, at 1.30 and 7.30, THE BABES IN THE WOOD. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, C. Lauri, jun., Stevens, Leno, Griffiths Bros., Andrews, Inch, Pleon. Henderson, Stanley, Dezano, and Harry Payne; Mesdames Florence Dysart, Duggan, Mayer, ÆNEA, Grey, Charteris, Deering, and Harriet Vernon. Box-office open daily from 10 to 6.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
MACBETH, TO-NIGHT, at 7.45. Overture 7.40. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth, Miss Ellen Terry. Messrs. Alexander, Wenman, Tyars, Webster, Howe, Haviland, Harvey, Johnson, Raynor, Outram, Lacy, Archer, &c.; Misses Marriott, Seaman, Desborough, Coleridge, Ivor, &c. Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages 11.10. —LYCEUM.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. Haddon Chambers, entitled "CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.30, by THE DUCHESS OF BAYSWATER AND CO. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday), and SATURDAY, January 19, at 2.30
SPECIAL MATINEES of THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, WEDNESDAY MORNING NEXT and FOLLOWING SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats may now be booked.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Charles Wyndham.)
EVERY EVENING, at 9.0, BETSY. (Last 2 Nights.) Preceded by, at 8.10, THE DOWAGER. Doors open at 7.45. POSITIVELY LAST MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 3. Doors open 2.30.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
THE DON.—RETURN and REAPPEARANCE of Mr J. L. TOOLE, EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale's successful Comedy, THE DON. Mr. J. L. TOOLE, supported by powerful company. Preceded, at 7.45, by DEAF AS A POST. Doors open at 7.15. Prices as usual. Box-office open at 11 to 6.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE of THE DON, TO-MORROW at 2. Doors open at 1.30. THE DON, 203th representation To-night.

SAVOY THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Manager, R. D'Oyly Carte.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.20 by MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open continuously from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, THE SILVER FALLS. Mr. William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Royce Carleton, Eardley Turner, J. Carne, C. Eaton, James East, H. Russell; Mesdames Millward, O. Nethersole, G. Esmond, A. Dairolles, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, Farce. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.0.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Mr. Thomas Thorne, Sole Lessee and Manager.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 250th Time. Preceded at 7.30 by THE POET. Mr. Thomas Thorne; Messrs. William Rignold, Fred Thorne, Cyril Maude, J. S. Blythe, Scott Buist, F. Grove, Frank Gillmore, and Mr. H. B. Conway; Mesdames Gladys Homfrey, Annie Irish, M. A. Giffard, Banister, B. Harrison, Arnold, R. McNeill, Bowman, Adlercron, Maunder, and Winifred Emery.

GAIETY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 7.30, FIRST MATE At 8.30, FAUST UP TO DATE. Miss Florence St. John, Miss Violet Cameron, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Fanny Robina, Miss Jenny M'Nulty, Miss Lillian Price, Miss M. Jones, Miss F. Levey, Miss A. Young, Miss E. Greville, Miss M. Love; Mr. E. J. Lonnen, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. E. Haslem, and Mr. George Stone.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in London, constructed entirely with concrete and iron absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout with electricity.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A. W. Pinero's New Three Act Domestic Drama, SWEET LAVENDER. 293rd Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, F. Kerr, H. Reeves Smith, Sant Matthews, Prince Miller; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Blanche Horlock. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Seats at the Libraries and Box-office, open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.

GLOBE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Richard Mansfield.)
PRINCE KARL.—EVERY EVENING, at 8.45, PRINCE KARL, Mr. RICHARD MANSFIELD, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Frankau, Mr. Vivian, &c.; Madame Carlotta Leclercq, Miss May Whitty, Miss Glidden, and Miss Beatrice Cameron. Preceded, at 8, by EDITHA'S BURGLAR. Miss Nelly Bowman, Mr. D. H. Harkins, and Mr. Lionel Brough Box-office (Mr. Innes) open daily 10 to 5. Doors open 7.30.

STRAND THEATRE.
(Under the management of Mr. C. H. Hawtrey.)
By arrangement with Mr. Willie Edouin.)
TO-NIGHT will be performed, a Burlesque in Three Acts, entitled ATALANTA, at 9 o'clock. Mr. George Capel, Mr. Tom Squire, Mr. Fleming Norton, Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, and Mr. Willie Warde; Miss Muriel Aubrey, Miss Carlotta Zerbini, Misses S. and G. Baring, and Miss Marie Linden. Preceded, at 8.10, by A HIGHLAND LEGACY, by Mr. Brandon Thomas. MATINEE TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 3 o'clock. Box-office open from Ten to Five.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh.)
(Under the management of Mrs. John Wood.)
EVERY EVENING, at 9.0 (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare), LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, adapted by Sydney Grundy, and entitled MAMMA. 93rd Performance. Preceded at 8 by BOX AND COX. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10. Telephone 3,031. EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE, Shaftesbury Avenue.
(Proprietor, Mr. John Lancaster.)
THIS EVENING, at 7.45, A HUSBAND IN CLOVER. At 8.15, THE LADY OF LYONS. Miss Wallis. Mesdames Robertha Erskine, H. Leigh, Annie Rose; Messrs. Arthur Stirling, Bassett Roe, Allen Thomas, Matthew Brodie, Charles Arnold, Herberte Basing, George Seldon, &c., and Forbes Robertson.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, DOROTHY. 834th Performance. Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Perry, H. Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. At 7.30, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINÉE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mr. H. Watkin.)
TO-NIGHT at 8.15, NADGY. Chrismas Edition of Chassaigne and Murray's New Comic Opera. New Songs, New Dances, New Business. Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and powerful company. Chorus and Orchestra of 100, conducted by Mr. John Crook. Preceded at 7.30 by QUITS. Doors open at 7.15; Box-office open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock. Telephone 3,241. MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday) and EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2 o'clock. Children half price.—R. D'Albertson' Acting Manager.

"SATAN'S INVISIBLE WORLD DISPLAYED."

THE correspondence that is published this morning between Sir Robert Morier and Count Bismarck gives the finishing touches to the process of exposure. No doubt it may be said with perfect truth that from the purely dialectical point of view Sir Robert Morier's letters would have gained if they had been less obviously written under a sense of burning indignation. But for our part we like them all the better for this vehement outburst of manly indignation at an intolerable insult. Of course if the "foul and impossible calumny" had merely been the invention of the *Kölnische*, Sir Robert would no doubt have passed the slander by with supreme disdain. But Sir Robert very well knew that the malignant libel had been put in circulation long before its appearance in print by Count Herbert Bismarck, and that the Rhenish newspaper drew its inspiration from Berlin. Hence, with characteristic intrepidity and directness, our Ambassador addressed himself to headquarters, and gave Count Herbert a chance of behaving like a gentleman and a man of honour. That Count Herbert did not avail himself of the opportunity offered him is much to be regretted. And in justice to Count Herbert it must be remembered that he was in a difficult position. He had attached credence to one of the miserable reports to the detriment of any one who crosses the path of the German Chancellor which are stowed like phials of vitriol on the shelves of the Berlin Press Bureau: he had repeated it privately, and he had subsequently authorized its publication in the *Kölnische*. No doubt it may be said that if the Count had been approached more gently he might have done more justice to himself than by resorting to the sorry subterfuge by which he has discredited the great name he bears. But when even the mildest mannered of gentlemen has his face rudely slapped in the open assembly it is not always the soft answer which turneth away wrath that rises most readily to his lips. In Germany, indeed, such results are usually avenged not by indignant epistles but by a prompt appeal to the sword. Duelling fortunately disappears before civilization, but when persons in Count Herbert's position can deem themselves justified in putting about calumnies on a representative of her Majesty without other authority than the hearsay gossip of a convicted traitor, and then when confronted with the truth refuse to tender at once the most handsome apology, it is less difficult to understand how it is that the duel is still regarded across the Rhine as indispensable to maintain the amenities of human intercourse.

We are heartily sorry for Count Bismarck, and we trust that his young master will get him out of the scrape as best he can by the offering of such officious or official apologies as may be necessary to satisfy the sense of honour of one who at least is the son and grandson of two of the most chivalrous gentlemen who ever lived. It cannot be the Emperor William's wish that his father's friend should be thus rudely insulted by Prince Bismarck's son. The real mischief, of course, comes from the degradation of the Foreign Office to the level of a private inquiry and secret news agency.

There was nothing in our Commissioner's letters from Russia which created a deeper impression on the public mind than his detailed description of the elaborate organization by which Prince Bismarck had provided for the manipulation of the press of Germany. To many, not unnaturally, his narrative appeared incredible. Sometimes nothing appears so impossible as the truth. But the sceptics have not had long to wait for confirmation of his accuracy when he wrote:—

> Prince Bismarck has organized a news service for the benefit of the German Government, the like of which exists nowhere out of the French novels which describe the spy system of Fouché. . . . At the Chancellerie of the Secret Intelligence Bureau at Berlin under Herr Holstein are kept the dossiers of every man or woman whom from time to time Prince Bismarck thinks it necessary to watch with a view to ulterior developments. The skeletons that we all try to keep concealed in the shadiest recesses of our secret chambers are thus kept as ready for mobilization as a Prussian army corps. In case it is necessary to crush or embarrass any opponent at home or abroad Herr Holstein has but to press a button and the private records of that opponent's life are ready to hand, to be served up with such piquant sauce as may suit the public taste in any of the journals by which the inoculation of the public mind is arranged for in the interest of the Administration.

Here in this extraordinary scandal we have the whole process complete. First of all the Military Attaché reports more or less accurately in 1886 the story told him by Marshal Bazaine at a time when that officer was subsisting on charity in Madrid. Secondly, this secondhand tittle-tattle is carefully sent to Berlin and hoarded up like precious treasure for use on future occasion. Thirdly, Count Bismarck having access to the dossiers in the Wilhelmstrasse puts about the story among his friends. Fourthly, finding that it was necessary to do damage to Sir Robert and through Sir Robert to the late Emperor, whose journal hurt Prince Bismarck's vanity, the wretched calumny is launched upon the world by the agency of one of the Reptile papers. Fifthly, when a denial comes, although his official position forbids him to contradict a calumny, he places at the disposal of the paper which has served his turn the official report which had lain perdu for years in the Government archives. And then, when all the world shrugs its shoulders at the ridiculous foundation on which so grave a charge had been laid at the door of an Ambassador of her Majesty, we have this astounding correspondence, in which the detected libeller has not even the grace to apologize for his offence. What a scandalous spectacle it is, and how it justifies Carlyle's grim taunt that "Satan's Invisible World Displayed" was the natural title for a description of the interior economy of some newspapers.

MR. MORLEY AND RESPONSIBILITIES ABROAD.

By Admiral Maxse.

It is some consolation for Radicals who develop their own principles, and who have already severed themselves from the Gladstonian party upon the Irish question, that they have been spared the humiliation of being identified in any way with the attitude taken up in the House of Commons by Mr. John Morley and other Gladstonian Radicals.

I would far rather not—on personal grounds—have to criticise Mr. John Morley. He has, however, shown so little scruple in discarding his former friends and allies, and he has—no doubt under the dictate of peremptory principles which he considers sacred—so recklessly broken up the Radical party, and sacrificed all the hopes identified with it, that he cannot be surprised if some of us turn at last and declare that we too have principles to defend, and that we regard the fundamental principle which governs his conduct upon our responsibilities abroad (I will not offend his susceptibilities by using the word "Empire") as most disastrous to England and to the work she should yet be able to achieve in the world. Mr. John Morley has taken so prominent a part in the counsels of the Liberal party and he has so manifestly impregnated the receptive and too prolific mind of Mr. Gladstone with his destructive doctrines that it has become more necessary to discuss his position than that of any other politician on the Liberal side.

It may be safely said that Mr. Morley is more responsible for the feeble and vacillating part played by England in Egypt, for the reverses she has experienced, for her abandonment, not only of the Soudan, but of a rational defensive boundary of Egypt, which would naturally have been placed at Berber, than any other man in the country. He it was who called out for the evacuation of the Soudan immediately after the Hicks Pasha disaster—he it was who protested against an expedition to Khartoum, and stayed Mr. Gladstone's faltering hand in the relief of Gordon—he it was who peremptorily demanded the withdrawal of English troops from the front when the enemy was defeated and dismayed. Mr. Gladstone was unwilling enough to act firmly in Egypt, but Mr. Morley enervated him still more by his fuming protests against English occupation and by his pertinacious demands for the immediate evacuation of Egypt by the English troops, quite regardless of the consequences.

I remember in the days (it was shortly after the fall of Khartoum) when I belonged to the National Liberal Federation, Dr. Spence Watson, chairman of Mr. Morley's committee at Newcastle, moved a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of English troops from Egypt. I went down to Birmingham single-handed to oppose it. The resolution was backed by a letter from Mr. Morley. I brought forward an amendment expressing confidence in

CARICATURES OF 1888.

The *Vanity Fair* album will perhaps turn out to be one of the most important—it is certainly one of the most entertaining—of the historical annuals of our time. The portrait-painters of any age are the leading historians; but then the portrait-painter is a flatterer by profession. The caricaturist, it may be said, is a detractor, or at any rate an exaggerator, by profession. So he is; but his unkindnesses, or his extravagances, are just those which are most valuable to the student of social manners. It is precisely in noting personal peculiarities, in fixing upon little foibles, and exaggerating characteristic attitudes, that the caricaturist becomes so valuable a check upon the colourless impartiality of more formal historians. Indeed, the best caricaturists are not so much caricaturists at all as students of character. This was what Swift meant when he said:—

> Draw them like and I assure—a
> You will need no caricatur—a

This remark is perfectly true of the specimens from the *Vanity Fair* show for 1888 which the courtesy of the editor enables us to give in outline below. There is much more likeness about them all than caricature: but it is likeness touched with closeness of observation and good-humoured fun. Of the eight pictures here given only one is by the well-known pencil of "Ape"—a fact which is acounted for by Signor Pellegrini's illness. Five are by "Spy" (Mr. Ward): namely, "T. P.," Mr. Graham, "Jesse," the "Society Clown," and "Dan" Godfrey. The Marquis of Ailesbury is by "Lib," and Prince Albert Victor by "Hay." There are fifty-two caricatures in the volume, which, we may add, form one of the cheapest as well as the most amusing of picture galleries.

MR. DAN GODFREY. "T.P." (OF "THE STAR.") "JESSE." MARQUIS OF AILESBURY. PRINCE ALBERT VICTOR. MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH. MR. C. GRAHAM, M.P REV H. R. HAWEIS.

the Government, feeling that such poor firmness as Mr. Gladstone had mustered up deserved every possible encouragement as against the paralyzing influence which Mr. Morley sought to exercise. Needless to say that my protest produced but little effect. Dr. Spence Watson's fatuous demand for "scuttle" was carried.

It is very necessary in order to counteract Mr. Morley's influence to point out as plainly as possible the invariable principle upon which he acts on all questions of responsibility abroad. It consists in ignoring the responsibility altogether, and departing in howsoever ignominious a fashion. It means the effacement of England outside her coastlines. Wherever England is confronted abroad with a difficulty or a danger, whether it is with the Boers at the Cape, or with the Arabs in Egypt, or, I may add, with the Fenians in Ireland, Mr. Morley has always the same craven counsel to offer to his countrymen—they are to run away!

The curious thing is that a man who gives this ignoble advice should claim to speak as a superior moralist. Mr. Morley denounces Englishmen if they do not fly from danger—sacrifice allies—leave Gordon to have his head cut off, and abandon a position of vast responsibility towards dependent and suffering races. He sets to work in the seclusion of his study, and under the influence of his guiding principle conscientiously evolves an entire misrepresentation of the situation he treats, an outcome of which is that some manifest duty, which only the whipped cur would avoid, becomes an "aggression." We have an illustration of this in his treatment of the Suakin question. Could anything be plainer than this situation? There we were, the English and their allies, suffering a daily shower of shot and shell. Of course Mr. Morley made out that this was entirely our own fault. He is always ready to come forward and hold the brief for England's enemy in whatsoever part of the world the enemy appears, and he who is not on the side of the enemy is dismissed as a "Jingo." This epithet, which had a meaning when it was invented to describe a supporter of Lord Beaconsfield's sensational foreign policy, has degenerated into the verbal missile, and is flung by ultra-Cobden fanatics at every Englishman who preserves a particle of patriotism. Mr. Morley, in the debate in the House of Commons, protested against any attack on the dervishes. We were to sit still under the shower of shot and shell. Offensive operations that are undertaken with a defensive object are written down in the Morleyite vocabulary as "aggression." No doubt, if the shot and shell could have driven us away from Suakin bag and baggage, Mr. Morley would have been much gratified—but he could not quite say this. In order to strengthen his argument for inaction, he was reduced to the desperate strait of expressing concern for the safety of Stanley and Emin Pasha. It is the very first time on record that Mr. Morley has shown a symptom of concern for unfortunate European or Egyptian captives: he has been almost ostentatious in his indifference to them. Gordon's fate has never evoked a word of commiseration. We know that Mr. Morley has a stock of "sombre acquiescence" disposable for slaughter committed by those whose cause he espouses.

How are we to account for Mr. Morley's moral deadness to duties abroad and to the exercise of a power which may be beneficial to millions of human beings when we find him keenly sensitive to responsibilities at home, and know him to be a humanitarian above all things? The clue to the problem is that, although Mr. Morley is not a Positivist, he ardently accepts the Positivist doctrine of small communities. Great nations are an abomination to him: he thinks that they can only do harm; he cannot break up other great nations, but at least he can do something to break up the power of his own. The comical thing is that a man with such views should aspire to be the Minister of a great nation—it is almost strange that he should be returned for a great constituency—but it is probable the bulk of Newcastle electors know nothing of Positivist doctrines or of Mr. Morley's fundamental principle. Sensible Englishmen, who may also be practical humanitarians, desire to maintain the greatness of this country, which has been slowly acquired through the heroic efforts and sacrifices of generations of Englishmen. Those who have travelled over the world (it would be a good thing if a journey round the world and among our colonies were made an indispensable qualification for the rank of Cabinet Minister) know that England on the whole exercises a beneficent power abroad, and that in her dealings with dependent races she is more scrupulous than are other great Powers. Mr. Morley forgets, in his amiable philanthropy, that wheresoever England withdraws another European Power is prepared to step in and take her place. Russia would succeed us in India and France would come into Egypt. Our philanthropist would probably say, "Let any other Power undertake the hateful business—so long as we are out of it." These are the words of an effeminate philosopher. Whenever they are adopted by a responsible English statesman the downfall of England is assured. We shall rapidly decline in power, and probably fall into the position of Holland—that is to say, hold a precarious existence on sufferance.

Nations remain great for just so long as they are prepared to face difficulties, to assume responsibility, and to encounter war. We all hate war—nevertheless, it has been at times an instrument of progress and a means of quelling evil—for evil requires at times to be collared. National strength may be the best means of preventing war. I am for preserving our national strength, and for sticking to our responsibilities abroad, especially when they have been thrust upon us as they have been in Egypt, and they were even thrust upon the reluctant Mr. Gladstone. Therefore I protest, whether as an Englishman or as a Radical, against Mr. Morley's policy of poltroonery, which can only lead to the disappearance of England as a strong nation and as a civilizing Power.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We publish to-day an article on Mr. Morley's attitude in relation to our Empire abroad, which, although exaggerated both in the position which its writer accords to the right hon. member for Newcastle and as to the character of his doctrines, contains many things which will, we hope, be taken to heart by the leaders of the Liberal party. We would not venture to indulge ourselves in any such scathing criticisms of the fatal instinct which makes Mr. Morley recoil from the discharge of duties anywhere except within these islands. Nor would we have published them from the pen of any one who was not, like Admiral Maxse, one of the oldest and most attached friends of Mr. Morley. The ideal of England as an insular Belgium unfortunately at one time exercised a baleful fascination over the school to which Mr. Morley belonged, but we think Admiral Maxse is mistaken in thinking that Mr. Morley is indifferent to the Empire. He avowed himself some months ago as quite an ardent believer in the Empire, and it is not fair to regard his speech on the Suakin blunder as prompted by no higher motive than an inborn craving to cut and run. His criticisms were sustained and approved by men whose devotion to the Empire Admiral Maxse would not dream of questioning.

At the same time, after all deductions have been made, it is no doubt most unfortunate for the Liberal party that there should be any ground even for a suspicion in the country that what may be called Morleyism is in danger of gaining the ascendant over the wider views of Lord Rosebery. It may be quite true that there are multitudes of Liberals who care nothing for the Empire, but there are also multitudes who care sufficient for it to tolerate even the present Administration rather than risk establishing in office a Government that might adopt "Scuttle" as the watchword of its Imperial policy. Home Rule was wrecked in 1886 because it was approached from this fatal standpoint. It will only be carried when the electors see that so far from being an abandonment of the responsibilities of Empire it is the *sine quâ non* of the maintenance and development of our Imperial position.

General Grenfell has left Suakin, leaving Colonel Kitchener in command. The sooner we hear that Colonel Kitchener has left Suakin, leaving some one else in command, the better we shall be pleased. Colonel Kitchener at Suakin is incompatible with the establishment of friendly relations with the tribes. The one thing needful is to establish a friendly Power as a kind of arbitrator at Suakin which would keep them from cutting each other's throats; the one thing Colonel Kitchener dreams of is inciting them to cut each other's throats in order that he may establish Egyptian authority over Tokar.

It appears that "mum is to be the word" for General Boulanger's election campaign in Paris. "It is understood," says the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, "that in order to avoid embarrassing questions, he will not hold any election meetings. This is certainly borne out by his election address, which for anything that it says might just as well have been dispensed with also. It is indeed a very disappointing document; for it not only says nothing, but it does not even say it in the spirited style which Frenchmen are supposed to love. General Boulanger in wooing the Parisian electors is like the maiden of the ballad; he asks to be taken not for what he says or does, but for what he is.

It is curious that so clever a man as Mr. Labouchere should so often not know where to draw the line. Last night, for instance, at Liverpool, he remarked that "Mr. Chamberlain had donned the Devonshire livery, and become the lickspittle of noble lords and the lapdog of noble ladies." This is really "going it" rather too far. We will not say that it is vulgar, but certainly it is lacking in finish—a lack which is by no means made up by the plentiful supply of "l's." Alliteration is a good servant, but a bad master.

"A Great United Meeting" was held last night in St. George's Hall, Langham-place, under the presidency of Lord Hobhouse, to promote the return of the four independent candidates for the London County Council for Marylebone. These were Sir Thomas Farrer and Messrs. Holmes, Debenham, and Farrant, and the meeting, though not very large, could not possibly have been more united. Of the speakers, Sir Thomas was the most animated, Mr. Holmes the most sententious, and not without a certain dry humour, Mr. Debenham the most lengthy, and, truth to say, a trifle tedious until he broached a topic until then untouched, that of the transfer of the control of the police from the Home Office to the Council, a proposal which evoked the most cordial cheer of the evening. Mr. Farrant stands as an expert on the housing of the poor, Mr. Holmes on sanitation, Mr. Debenham on the detail of local business, and Sir Thomas Farrer on what the chairman described as his long official experience of high affairs. It was remarkable that more tenderness than might have been expected was expressed by the candidates for the late unhappy Board of Works, and their peccadilloes were excused by Mr. Debenham on the somewhat singular ground of the great variety and extent of their occupations and duties, which is quite against the usual theory that Satan finds work for the idle. The ratepayers of Marylebone ought to assemble in great numbers at the various meetings announced for the next fortnight. Sir Thomas Farrer laid stress on the non-political nature of his candidature, and on the fact that men of all parties are on the committee. The only Home Rule that he would consider in the present connection is Home Rule for London, and assuredly no man could be better fitted to advise the County Council when it begins to get to work than the able and eloquent ex-Secretary of the Board of Trade.

We are glad to see that Sir Thomas Chambers has instructed the returning officers to place no preliminary difficulties in the way of women candidates for the County Council. All returning officers are instructed to receive nominations for women without demur. They must in short be as colour-blind as to sex as we said the law should be in matters of the Franchise. Whether or not women have a right to sit can be tested in the law courts—if any one cares to challenge it. But it would be a graceful thing if the right were to be allowed without litigation. The precedent would be all the more valuable.

Mrs. Fawcett's argumentative reply to Mr. Goldwin Smith is vitiated by the entirely unnecessary attempt to prove that it is possible to stop halfway in the enfranchisement of women. It is not, and every candid person knows that it is not. If any one for a moment dreams that in contests which excite the keen political and social interest of parliamentary elections the married women of England will tolerate for more than a single day the spectacle of the spinsters and the widows voting while they are shut out from the polling booth, he does not know the married women of England. Hence all arguments as to 12 per cent., &c., are beside the question. We have to face sooner or later, and probably sooner rather than later, the inevitable issue—a franchise law colour-blind as to sex. We are much more likely to disfranchise bachelors and spinsters than to disfranchise married women, after their single sisters vote.

The *Times* this morning falls into an error which we made a fortnight since when we first commented on the Bazaine calumny; but which Sir Robert Morier corrected in a telegram which the *Times* published from its own correspondent in St. Petersburg on December 28. It says:—

> It is to be noted that an innocent explanation of the statement—namely that some of Sir Robert Morier's reports fell into the hands of non-official persons friendly to the French, and were by them transmitted, without his knowledge, to Bazaine—has never been suggested by the German newspapers.

This explanation may be innocent, but it is not worth while suggesting in face of Sir Robert's explicit declaration that he never even wrote any reports concerning any military operations at all, for the simple reason, that he had no information himself on the subject.

When Mr. Beerbohm Tree first appeared as Falstaff at the Crystal Palace we predicted his ultimate success in the character. That prediction he has now fulfilled. He is not as yet an ideal Falstaff; he lacks the gleam of mirth which should seldom be absent from the corner of the fat knight's eye; but in all other respects he is excellent. The performance as a whole is most creditable. Nothing could be better than the Caius, Evans, and Host of the Garter trio, in the hands of Messrs. Kemble, Righton, and Lionel Brough; Mr. Brookfield's Slender might be better, but is good; and Mr. Macklin's Ford might be much better, but is tolerable. The Merry Wives are brightly played by Miss Lingard and Miss Rose Leclercq, and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree quite justifies Master Slender's enthusiasm for "sweet Anne Page." The fairy scenes of the last act are both pretty and amusing, and the mounting as a whole is careful and adequate. A better Wednesday afternoon entertainment could not be desired.

The circular issued by the Local Government Board to the boards of guardians generally in the matter of the prosecution of parents who neglect their children is timely enough. Guardians are "not sufficiently aware of" their legal duties, says the circular, which is, no doubt, true; and it cannot be made known too widely that, by 31 and 32 Vict., cap. 122, any parent who starves, or insufficiently clothes, his child, being under the age of fourteen, so as to injure its health, is liable to six months' hard labour; or that the law directs that in such cases the guardians "*shall* institute the prosecution." But while they are about it, the Government would do well to circularize the magistrates as to *their* duty. More than one of them has recently "not seen his way" to convict parents who have cruelly starved their children, as we have more than once pointed out. If the guardians and the magistrates would all do their duty, the familiar spectacle of the professional beggar's blue-faced, shivering child—the cruellest and falsest appeal to pity—would soon cease to disfigure our streets.

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE CONTINENT.

One of the Parisian institutions which will have to suffer by the Fêtes du Centenaire during the present year is the Salon, which, instead of being open to the public as usual for two months, beginning at the 1st of May, will be closed on June 15, the Palais de l'Industrie being wanted for other purposes.

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Two of the young African natives whom Cardinal Lavigerie has sent over to the Pères-Blancs at Lille, there to study medicine, have just obtained their degree of M.D., after passing their examination in the most brilliant manner. The names of the young doctors are Frederick Mahomed and Vital Hamed.

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It is just fifty years since Prince Bismarck's mother died at the village of Schönhausen. Over her grave in the village church is a stone tablet bearing the words, "God tried her sorely by physical sufferings, but she bore them with great patience and gentleness." The only picture of the mother of the Chancellor hangs in a little room at the Castle of Schönhausen, next to the room in which the Chancellor was born. Frau Louise Wilhelmine von Bismarck was only forty years old when she died.

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The collection of postage stamps of which M. Ferrari, the son of the Duchess of Galliera, is the happy possessor, consists of over two million stamps, and has a market value of £25,000. The acquisition of stamps seems to be the only object for which M. Ferrari considered his mother's millions good enough to be spent, for he has been known to pay from £75 to £100 for a collection from which he wanted only a single stamp.

***

An Austrian savant has obtained a harvest of 4,000 sponges, which are the result of an experiment of literally sowing small parts of living sponges in a soil favourable to their production. The Austrian Government is much delighted with the experiment, which is to be repeated on a larger scale in Dalmatia. The cost of the 4,000, which have been growing for the last three years, is a little over £11, everything included.

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Leo XIII. shares with her Majesty the predilection for unheated rooms, but while the Queen only objects to fires in bedrooms his Holiness never allows a fire to be lit in any of the eight rooms of the Vatican which he inhabits. These rooms are, with the exception of the library, small and low, and the Pope's habits are so simple that he does not even require a dining-room, but takes his meals either in his bedroom or in the library.

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The other day the bedroom was moved to a higher floor, as the room in which the Pope had hitherto slept was converted into a private chapel. On one of the officials remarking that the upper rooms would be too hot for habitation during the summer months, the Pope quietly replied, "Then I shall have my bed put into the library."

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Cardinal Lavigerie, by the way, has brought over from Africa two graceful gazelles as a present to Leo XIII.; they have been housed in a corner of the Vatican gardens, and the Pope never takes his daily walk among the vines and shrubs, which he himself has imported, without stopping in front of the enclosures where the animals have become quite tame.

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The crematorium at Zurich, which was commenced last spring, is now quite finished, and the two embalmed corpses which have been waiting for its completion will be cremated as soon as the first "trials" have been made with some bodies from the *Anatomie*. The crematorium, which is built in the simple Greek style, is situated at the extreme south-west of the Grand Cimetière Central, and the cost of its erection has been 32,000 f. only, which is nearly half of the usual cost of such buildings. The cost of cremation will consequently be only 50 f., instead of the usual price of 100 f.

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During the autumn Biarritz is a Russian colony, in winter it becomes an English town, and our compatriots have this Christmas introduced a very pretty feature into their social life by causing a number of young English girls to perform the whole of "Athalie," the play which in days of yore the maidens of Saint-Cyr performed before his Majesty King Louis XIV.

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Sheikh Hassan Taufik, the Arabic lecturer of the Berlin Oriental Museum, has read to William II. an Arabic poem, written for the occasion of the anniversary of the museum. It is very Arabic indeed. Here is a verse from it:—

> Let us lift up the cup of joy! We drink to the patron, the son of glorious ancestors, the shoot from a noble stem, to William, the Emperor. His manner is like the soft smile of the zephyr, and of his attack the lions are afraid. Hail to thee, Sovereign, thou who art far above Alexander in greatness, and above Cyrus in justice. May the brilliant sun of the glory of thy reign never set. While Taufik lives he will dedicate his song to the German Emperor and to the German nation.

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Apropos of the decoration of Mdme. Cahen, who has just been decorated with the French cross of the Legion of Honour, the following little story is interesting. After the Franco-German war the lady, who is the widow of a clever medical man, went three times to Germany to look after the wounded French soldiers. She was introduced to the old Empress Augusta, who talked to her for two hours, and said, when she took leave of her visitor, "Madame, I should like a link to exist between you and me," and, taking her own Red Cross she put it round Mdme. Cahen's neck, saying, "the only value of this cross is, that it is a sign of how we have both tried to mitigate the misery of our fellow creatures."

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Here are a few statistics which have been collected in Norway at the close of the year. During 1888 Norway has been visited by 16,776 foreigners, of whom 6,372 were English, 5,957 Swedes, and 2,080 Germans, while the rest were of various other nations.

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Ten thousand new cab and carriage horses are among the items which Paris is acquiring for the accommodation of visitors to the approaching exhibition. Nearly all of these are bought at Roeskilde, a little town forming the centre of the horse traffic in Denmark, by a Parisian firm which supplies the Société Générale des Voitures de Paris with horses.

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This firm ha for many years past bought their horses in Denmark, and a few years ago, when the exportation of horses from Germany was prohibited, they found themselves one day at Hamburg with a large number of animals, unable to get away till special permission was received from the Foreign Office. A few months later the same thing occurred again, and Prince Bismarck received one of the heads of the firm, who came to plead for a free traffic, with the laughing remark, "Well, I suppose you have once again got into a corner with your nags." The current notion, that the horses are bought for military purposes, is scoffed at at Berlin, the animals in question not being made of the stuff of which war steeds are made.

ANOTHER MODERN METHUSELAH.

THE LIFE AND HABITS OF PETER LAING, THE ELGIN CENTENARIAN.

THIS is a portrait of Peter Laing, the Elgin centenarian, who to-day enters upon his 105th year. A good deal has been written of late as to the bearing of habits of life in the matter of longevity. In the case of this modern Methuselah it has neither been the attention paid to health laws nor abstinence from alcoholic liquor that has prolonged his life to the patriarchal age he has just attained. Peter indeed was a hard drinker in his day, the nature of his calling—that of a carter—and the character of his associates tending in this direction. It was Peter's frequent custom after a heavy carouse to breakfast in the early morning on a handful of oatmeal taken from the miller's heap and soaked with water from the mill-lade. On many a morning this rough breakfast sufficed, with an occasional "dram," for the performance of a day's work which few of his fellows were equal to. When upwards of eighty years of age Peter was able to carry a sack of grain on his back of a weight that would crush in the attempt many a man accustomed to such work of half his years. Living much in the open air, always poorly clothed, and bestowing little attention, as far as food was concerned, on the "inner man," Peter seems never to have been afflicted with the common ailments which might be expected to follow such a mode of living. In respect to bodily attire, Peter was always somewhat indifferent, and he went about his avocation in all weathers with his breast exposed. The old man feels uncomfortable even now when closely muffled up at the throat or chest. Up till quite recently Peter was able to attend to his calling; he still retains all his mental faculties, and, with the exception of a rheumatic pain in one of his limbs, enjoys good health. Without education, he has nevertheless great natural shrewdness, and like most persons in humble circumstances who attain to a long age, has a more vivid recollection of remote events than of those of recent date; and the prices of land and grain, agricultural servants' wages at the beginning of the century, and kindred topics, are congenial subjects of conversation with him. It is the centenarian's custom to retire to rest about seven or eight o'clock in the evening, and, as his habit always has been, he gets up by three or four in the morning, and soon after breakfasts on oatmeal and water, or, mayhap, potatoes. Peter has a relish for this early meal that is only common to him in the morning. He finds a solace, however, throughout the day in his tobacco pipe, and is generally ready to enjoy a smoke and "crack" with any visitor who may look in upon him in his lonely room. A bit of tobacco presented to the old man is gratefully received, though unaccompanied with that obsequious air and affected words which characterize a certain class of aged persons who have lost the independence of spirit which characterizes old Peter Laing. A man several years beyond the hundred, sitting with bared head and spectacled face, with an open large-print Testament on his knees within his open door on a fine Sunday morning lately, was a sight quite unforgettable. It is believed in the district where Peter Laing has resided all his lifetime that his father attained the age of 108, and that his grandfather was present on the Royalist side at the battle of Culloden. His own age, at any rate, has been authenticated, and it is not without interest just now in connection with the Stuart Exhibition that there is still living a man that brings the historic event alluded to so near to-day.

IS LONDON GROWING BETTER OR WORSE?

AN INTERVIEW WITH A PRACTICAL OPTIMIST.

"Is London growing better or worse?" is a question that many of us have been asking ourselves of late, not without some searchings of heart. The Rev. George McCree is one of the few who are qualified in some sense to answer it. Mr. McCree has worked for forty years among the poor of London. For a good part of that time he has been in touch with a large circle of the "criminal class." The cheery, hale, and weatherbeaten face of the Baptist missionary is familiar "across the water." He knows his way about the slums of Southwark. Alone and unchallenged he has traversed the most devious paths of the purlieus of Whitechapel. He is now attached to a chapel in the Borough-road; and altogether he has seen a good deal of the seamy side of life in London. One who has worked so hard and so long to make London better speaks with some authority on the question as to whether it is becoming so. This he does with no uncertain sound, as readers of his letter in the *Daily News* are aware; and, in answer to some questions which the letter had suggested to a representative, Mr. McCree readily filled in his outline to the effect conveyed in the following conversation:—

"Every one admits, Mr. McCree, that there are now many more agencies than ever before at work to make London better; we all know about the facilities for education, the cheap good literature, the means of recreation, and the other things of which you speak in your letter. But what people feel doubt about is whether the results are all that they should be—whether the increased activity is equal to meeting the increased sources of evil, over-population, congestion, and the other signs of the times. Now, for instance, you speak of the cheapness of good literature. But how about the low publications that Mr. Samuel Smith is distressed about in the interests of the children—publications circulating millions weekly?"

"I don't believe that they circulate among our Board school children. You must remember, to begin with, that there are 35 millions in this country for them to circulate among. They are mainly read, I believe, by larrikins of about sixteen or over, and by the criminal classes. Boys and girls who have been educated at the Board schools won't stand such stuff. They read tales of adventure and books of travel, and the well-written periodicals published by the S.P.C.K.; and I think that the taste thus fostered proceeds afterwards to really good literature. It is astonishing how popular the best class of magazines is with the young readers of our libraries here. They read them, take care of them, and take them out freely when bound into volumes. The needs of the people in this respect are so much better understood now. Let me give you an instance of the kind of ignorance that prevailed twenty-five years ago. When I appealed for books for my first free library in St. Giles's a lady sent me the following selection: Symond's 'Mathematics,' an old magazine volume, 'How to improve the Breed of Horses,' and 'Every Man his own Farrier.' I have made it a practice, I may tell you, to go into the book-shops in the neighbourhood, and, after making a purchase, to stop chatting about that or this, taking mental notes the while of the people who come in and what they ask for. Twice lately I have heard low publications asked for; but on both occasions it was by men over twenty, and on both occasions the answer was that the publication was not kept there. The extent to which criminal and suggestive literature, focussed from the worst items in the local papers all over the country, is compiled and circulated every week, is undeniable; but I think it is not nearly so much current in London as in the provinces. Compare a London bookstall—say at London Bridge—with a Lancashire one—say at Manchester. You will not find here anything like the same prominence of such publications. The average bookseller here declines to sell them across his counter, and makes his fortune without doing so. Where there is any considerable sale, it will not be found in the neighbourhood of any good Board school."

"You are no friend, then, Mr. McCree, to the scepticism which regards the Board schools as having no effect at all on manners and morals?"

"I think it stands to reason that there is more likelihood of a boy or girl who can read with pleasure finding decent occupation at home than larking in the streets. And I say, from experience, that the education experiment has refined, and is refining, the children; that each generation is growing up more civilized, more amenable, and less brutalized than the last."

"I am glad to hear you say so. You don't think that it teaches servants to be above doing well by their masters and mistresses?"

"On the contrary, my experience is that the decently-educated girl makes the best servant."

"To pass from literature to recreation. You attach great importance to the spread of music among the young generation?"

"Yes: the tonic sol-fa has done wonders. The Bands of Hope do splendid work. They give entertainments of very passable merit to each other, and the wholesome taste is growing day by day."

"How about the music-halls?"

"Much may be said against the music-hall entertainment, though I think there are signs of an improvement in their taste, and that those which don't provide a more intelligent fare will soon go to the wall. But I remember the 'penny gaff,' as it flourished between '48 and '68. Flagrant indecency was its invariable mark. We have nothing like it. One thing about the music-halls I will say—that much will 'go down' with a man when he has liquor inside him which 'Philip sober' would not have stood for a minute."

"Take one striking fact that occurs to me," continued Mr. McCree; "look at the prisons that we are dispensing with. Coldbath-fields, Newgate, the House of Detention, Horsemonger-lane Gaol—that is now mostly a playground for children—and the Queen's Bench Prison—that is the site of model dwelling-houses, accommodating 4,000 families. We are not building new ones at the same rate, any more than we are building lecture-halls for the spread of infidelity at the same rate as we are building everywhere churches and chapels. You must take into account, of course, the increase of population. Is crime increasing proportionately? I say it is decreasing. The fact is that we are getting hold of the children. Men like Barnardo and W. Williams have blocked the spread of crime."

"This is very cheering talk, Mr. McCree. What has made many people despondent just now is the apocalypse of evil connected with the Whitechapel atrocities. Is not prostitution on the increase?"

"In proportion to the population, nothing like it. I have been through the worst haunts of Whitechapel. You newspaper men have been too; you have visited the scene of the murder and the neighbouring lodging-house, and painted them in vivid colours. But I have visited also the surrounding districts, where live thousands of hardworking, honest, decent people. The circle in which all these murders lay is a patch of vice on an area of decent citizenship. Besides, ask those who see them, ask those who carry on the midnight meeting movement, and they will tell you that these wretched women are far more modestly behaved than they used to be. Again, any girl who really wishes to do so can nowadays find help to leave the life in twenty-four hours. The legislation about lodging-houses has done much by preventing overcrowding. Migration into the suburbs has done much, too, for the ordinary home. Far more attempts—poor enough often, but still attempts—at decent conditions of family life are now made in crowded homes. Altogether, I believe that the testimony of City missionaries as a whole would be that no neighbourhood (unless it be one depleted of its more respectable dwellers by migration countrywards) is worse than it was, and many are much better."

"There is one point, Mr. McCree," said our representative, "which even you will concede to the pessimists. Are not betting, gambling, and the sporting furore generally, spreading among the masses?"

"I grant you that one thing. Much might be expected if a better example were set by Princes and peers and members of Parliament in this matter. It is spreading among the upper classes too."

"I congratulate you on maintaining so sanguine and buoyant a spirit," said our representative, as he bade Mr. McCree good-bye; "it is well to meet with some one who hopes well as well as works well."

"It is not the green optimism of a new broom, I can say that," was the cheery reply. "After all, what is all enthusiasm but a high hope of success and better things in what we work for?"

OUR RECENT ACTORS.*

SCRATCH a truism and you will find a fallacy. The evanescence of acting is often dwelt upon as a highly pathetic circumstance, entitling the actor to much commiseration; but we need not consider very closely to find that it has compensations enough and to spare. It is pitting truism against truism to point out that the successful actor reaps a more liberal and immediate reward, in the shape of applause, than falls to the share of any other artist. More novel perhaps, and certainly no less true, is the remark that the evanescence of his actual achievement by no means robs the actor of the admiration and applause of posterity. Garrick lives for us as really as Goldsmith or Reynolds. "*Off* the stage," said Murphy, "he was a mean, sneaking little fellow. But *on* the stage—oh my great God!" This phrase will outlive many a world-famous poem and picture and statue; and though the man might not relish it the artist could scarcely desire a more splendid eulogy. It is true that we hear much uninstructed talk and uncritical enthusiasm about the actors of the past; but even about the poets and painters of the past people do not always speak out of the fulness of knowledge and understanding. The study of acting differs from that of the other arts in that it demands a reconstructive effort of the imagination, and deals to some extent in glorious uncertainties. All the greater, for some minds, is the fascination it possesses.

The writer, then, who has a gift for word-photography does a service to coming generations of students if he exercises it in the portraiture of the actors of his time. Dr. Westland Marston possesses this gift in an eminent degree, and his two pleasant volumes deserve to rank with George Henry Lewes's "Actors and Acting," among the classics of theatrical criticism. His work is not only critical but anecdotic, for Dr. Marston knew personally the leading figures of the generation of actors with whom he deals. At the same time it is neither flippant nor egotistical. We know of no theatrical book written with greater tact or more excellent modesty. Dr. Marston's portrait gallery begins with Macready, his picture tending, like Lady Pollock's delightful sketch, to soften the harshness of the actor's self-portraiture in his melancholy diary. "During dinner," writes our author, "a lady happened to speak of the 'lower classes'—a phrase to which Macready excepted. 'Will you let me,' he said, 'correct that expression? I always like to think of our less fortunate fellow-creatures as the *poorer* classes, rather than as the *lower* classes.'" The whole man is in this little episode: his captious punctiliousness wedded to a real and fundamental generosity of spirit. Charles Kemble, whom he saw in Hamlet and in his great character of Mercutio, is Dr. Marston's next subject. In the course of this paper he quotes a delightful piece of nonsense-verse which we do not remember to have seen in print. It is a prologue written with the purpose of testing the intelligence of a certain "orotund" actor (as Whitman would say) who accepted it, we are assured, in all good faith, and was eager to deliver it. Here is its opening period:—

> When Grecian splendour, unadorned by art,
> Confirmed the Theban Oracle—in part;
> When Genius walked digestive o'er the scene
> In meagre mystery of unlettered mien;
> When man first saw, with an inverted eye,
> The tearful breath of purple panoply,—
> 'Twas then the Muse, with adamantine grace,
> Replied, prophetic, from her Pythian base,
> And Roscius bent his Macedonian knee
> Before the squadrons of Melpomene.

The remainder is equally good, but this will be sufficient to show all who have studied the traditional English prologue how happily its cadence has been caught. Dr. Marston does not name either the actor or the authors. Query—Cooper and the Brothers Smith? William Farren the Great, the father of our own "young Farren," comes next, and is followed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, with whom Dr. Marston was pleasantly intimate. He tells a delightful anecdote as to Kean's method of overcoming the diffidence of a friend who shrank from praising him to his face. It appears, too, that Kean once punished a critic who had ventured to call Mrs. Kean "vulgar" by locking him up for some hours in the manager's room at the Princess's. We have heard of attempts to shut up an obnoxious critic, but to lock him up was certainly a stretch of managerial prerogative. Among the best papers in Dr. Marston's book are his sympathetic yet critical sketches of Charlotte Cushman, Charles Dillon and G. V. Brooke, while of the comedians Webster, Robson and Wigan, Buckstone, Keeley and Compton, he has much to say. Two chapters are devoted to Phelps and his Sadler's Wells Company, and a chapter each to Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Warner, Madame Vestris, Charles Mathews, Sothern, Miss Neilson, Fechter, and Rachel. Though the urbanity of Dr. Marston's criticisms could scarcely have been greater if the actors themselves had been alive to read them, he is by no means a mere eulogist. He discriminates keenly and describes vividly; and his standard of excellence, so far as our personal recollections enable us to form an opinion, seems singularly just. One is surprised to find so excellent a writer guilty now and then of such slips as the use of "transpire" for "occur." He has a curious habit of winding up his notice of each actor by stating the date and place of his death. It is logical and in some cases useful, but its monotony becomes a trifle lugubrious.

Mr. John Coleman's book of theatrical reminiscences is, from a literary point of view, a far less satisfactory performance, but in other respects it is equally interesting. It covers very much the same ground as Dr. Marston's work, but is less critical and more anecdotic. Mr. Coleman has at his fingers' ends the secret history of the stage for the past forty years, and the dramatic historian (if any one should ever venture to attack that labyrinthine period) will find these two weighty volumes valuable and even indispensable. He will have to be careful in checking Mr. Coleman's facts and dates, which are often questionable, but he will be indebted to him for much curious information not otherwise attainable. The reader of to-day, when he has got over the peculiarities of Mr. Coleman's grammar and phraseology, and has learned to interpret aright his scraps of French, which would have puzzled M. Littré, will find him graphic, garrulous, genial, and entertaining. He has indubitably the pen of a ready writer. In his portraits of actors, and more especially of authors, a good deal of allowance has to be made for the personal equation. Where he writes of a congenial spirit his portraiture is probably true in the main, though it contains something less, and perhaps something more, than the whole truth. This remark applies to his sketches of John Ryder, Charles Dillon, G. V. Brooke, Charles Reade, and F. B. Chatterton. To uncongenial characters, such as Alfred Wigan, Tom Taylor, and T. W. Robertson, he does very scanty justice. The book is full of strange and often pathetic side-lights upon the social and economic conditions of stageland, especially of its outlying districts, and it has the merit of being no mere loose compilation, but a first-hand record of events, impressions and experiences. In a concluding note Mr. Coleman promises a second budget of recollections. If he keeps his promise (as we hope he may) we would adjure him to eschew French. His native idiom presents quite enough pitfalls for such a go-as-you-please writer. Further, when an easy reference will secure accuracy of statement, it is hard to excuse what seems gratuitous blundering. In his account of the Macready banquet Mr. Coleman remarks, "Mr. John Forster ladled out, or, I should say, roared forth, an ode written for the occasion by Tennyson, commencing, 'Macready, moral, great, sublime!'" He need only have turned to Sir Frederick Pollock's easily accessible volumes to find that the poem was not an ode but a sonnet, and that "Farewell, Macready; moral, *grave*, sublime," is not the first but the twelfth line.

* "Our Recent Actors: being Recollections of Late Distinguished Performers of both Sexes." By Westland Marston. (London: Sampson Low and Co. 1888.)
"Players and Playwrights I have known." By John Coleman. (London: Chatto and Windus. 1888.)

"TACTICS AND ORGANIZATION."

"On Tactics and Organization." By Captain F. N. Maude, R.E. (Thacker and Co.) Impelled by a laudable desire to add to the military knowledge of his countrymen, Captain Maude republishes a number of short articles contributed to the press at various times. As a mass, the papers show industry and, on the whole, an adoption of the more intelligent views of the modern schools of military thought. Captain Maude has enjoyed the advantage of being present with German troops during their training, and writes brightly enough on that and on other subjects. He is not afraid of criticising British methods of drill and tactics, as indeed every intelligent British officer does, from Lord Wolseley down to the youngest subaltern who begins to understand how progress is delayed by some of the powers that be. But Captain Maude, like most officers who have not acquired a thoroughly practical acquaintance with war, is apt to be cock-sure of his theories, which are sometimes rather crude. For instance, while he is justified in criticising the formation in which the Prussian Guards attacked at St. Privat, he is wrong in supposing, as he apparently does, that the whole formation was in heavy columns, and he arrives very near Chauvinism when he says: "Had an equivalent number of Americans or of British infantry stood opposite the French at St. Privat that fatal 18th of August, we believe that they would have carried the place at the first rush." It is quite misleading to say that the "Prussians lost only 30 per cent. in a fight which lasted from early evening till late into the night," seeing that in the repulsed attack the Guards lost about that proportion in a very few minutes. And again, he is not only wrong, but, we may say, impertinent, to a gallant if wrongly directed army when he asserts that "the garrison of St. Privat were not of a class to stand the threat of cold steel." As a matter of fact that garrison not only stood the threat, but actually held their ground for some time in the evening, even when, short of ammunition, and with the village in flames around them, they found themselves at close quarters with enormously superior forces.

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.]

BLACKIE, JOHN STUART. "Scottish Song: its Wealth, Wisdom, and Social Significance." (Blackwood.)
[A selection with airs. An introductory chapter discusses the value and significance of Scottish song. The songs themselves are arranged according to subjects, and are accompanied by historical and critical remarks from the pen of one who probably knows the subject as well as any living Scotsman. Pp. 388, cloth. No price stated.]

BOWERS, G. "Hunting in Hard Times." (Chapman and Hall.)
[A series of twenty coloured plates, in the manner of the late Mr. Randolph Caldecott. No price stated.]

GLANCEY, the Rev. MICHAEL F. (Editor.) "Characteristics from the Writings of Archbishop Ullathorne." (Burns and Oates.)
[A series of excerpts, under such headings as "Ambition," "Angels," &c. The source of the quotation—book and page—is in each case given; and a very complete descriptive bibliography is prefixed. The selection is readable, and will doubtless commend itself to Catholics. Pp. 342, cloth. Price not stated.]

HIBBERD, SHIRLEY. "The Garden Oracle and Floricultural Year Book, 1889." (*Gardener's Magazine* Office.)
[An almanac; mems. for each month; new plants of 1888; selections for 1889; article on the cultivation of Chrysanthemums. A cheap and useful year-book. Pp. 218, boards. Price 1s.]

RUSSELL, The Rev. WILLIAM, D.D. "Essays on Sacred Subjects." (William Blackwood and Sons.)
[The essays contained in this ponderous volume deal with subjects like the Existence of God, Monotheism, the Evolution Hypothesis, Materialism, the Fall, &c. They are written for "general readers whose time may be limited." Pp. 546, cloth. Price not stated.]

WALFORD, L. B. "A Stiff-necked Generation." (Blackwood and Sons.) [A novel in three volumes.]

"REVUE DES DEUX MONDES." (London: Baillière, Tindal and Cox.)
[The January number contains a three-act comedy by M. Octave Feuillet entitled, "Le Divorce de Juliette."]

Bord's Pianos, 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

NOTICES.

Announcements of BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, *and* DEATHS *are inserted for 5s. each. The* PALL MALL GAZETTE *is sent post free for any number of days to any address in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and all countries in the Postal Union, at the rate of ninepence per week, or 9s. 6d. per quarter. The* PALL MALL BUDGET, *also post free, costs for the United Kingdom 4s. 11d. per quarter; for all countries in the Postal Union 5s. 5d. per quarter: for India and China 6s. per quarter. Apply to the Manager,* PALL MALL GAZETTE, 2, NORTHUMBERLAND-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.
Lessee, Mr. W. FREEMAN THOMAS.
HENGLER'S GRAND CIRCUS COMPANY.
TWICE DAILY, at 2 and 7.30.
Prices of Admission:—Gallery, 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.; Pit and Promenade, 2s.; Stage Stalls, 3s.; First Circle, 3s.; Grand Circle, 4s.; Stalls, 5s.; Boxes from 10s. 6d. to £3 3s. Early doors open at One o'clock and 6.30 (entrance, Hart-street) to Pit and Promenade, Amphitheatre and Gallery. 6d. Extra. Box-office open daily, from 10 till 5, under the direction of Mr. E. Hall. No charge for booking. Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. WALTER GOOCH. Musical Director, Mr. GEORGE CLEMMENTS.

SPECIAL NOTICE – CHILDREN HALF-PRICE to MORNING and EVENING PERFORMANCES to all parts of the House (except Gallery) on payment at the doors, or seats can be secured in advance at the Box-office and all Libraries.—HENGLER'S CIRCUS, THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Miss GRACE HAWTHORNE. Manager, Mr. W. W. KELLY.—ENORMOUS SUCCESS of HANDS ACROSS THE SEA (free list entirely suspended). Messrs. Henry Neville, Robert Pateman, E. W. Garden, W. L. Abingdon, Julian Cross, A. Bucklaw, E. Gurney, Morell, Grace, Dalziell; Misses Webster, De Solla, Vizetelly, and Mary Rorke. A HAPPY PAIR, at 7.30. Seats at the Box-office (Mr. A. Frye), 10 till 5, and the Libraries.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—MATINEES of "HANDS ACROSS THE SEA" EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. A gigantic success. Doors open at 2 o'clock. Free list entirely suspended.

COMEDY THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 9 o'clock, a New Farcical Comedy, in three acts, entitled UNCLES AND AUNTS, by W. LESTOCQ and WALTER EVERARD. Mr. W. S. Penley, and special cast. Preceded, at 8, by FENNEL, by J. K. JEROME.—Business Manager, Mr. E. F. BRADLEY.

UNCLES AND AUNTS.—MATINEE TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, at 3 o'clock. COMEDY THEATRE.

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.—CINDERELLA. Written by HORACE LENNARD, Produced under direction of OSCAR BARRETT. DAILY at 3, and THURSDAY, and SATURDAY EVENINGS at 7.30. Seats from 1s. to 5s.

CRYSTAL PALACE PANTOMIME.—CINDERELLA, DAILY at 3.0, and THURSDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, at 7.30.—The powerful company includes—Messrs. Edward Righton, Clarence J. Hague, and John D'Auban; Mesdames Susie Vaughan, Emma D'Auban, Mary Righton, Kate Vito, Amy Liddon, and Edith Bruce. Seats from 1s.

NIAGARA IN LONDON. COLOSSAL PICTURE of the GREAT FALLS, original effects, by PHILIPPOTEAUX. Pleasant Lounge, Music, American Sweetmeat Store. Electric Light. Refreshments by Beguinot. Admission 1s. No fees. 10 to 10.—YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, St. James's Park Station.

ART GALLERIES.

NEW GALLERY, Regent-street.—EXHIBITION of the ROYAL HOUSE of STUART.—NOW OPEN from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. Admission One Shilling. Season Tickets Five Shillings.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—The Exhibition of WORKS by the OLD MASTERS and by DECEASED MASTERS of the BRITISH SCHOOL, including a collection of Works by the late FRANK HOLL, R.A., and a selection of Water Colour Drawings by J. M. W. TURNER, R.A., will OPEN on MONDAY NEXT, the 7th January, 1889. Admission 1s. Catalogues 6d. Season Tickets 5s.

To-Day and To-morrow.

TO-DAY.

"Parachute and Aerial Engineering," by T. Moy, C.E.—Balloon Society, St. James's Hall, 8.
"Some Bagshot Pebble Beds and Pebble Gravel," by H. W. Monckton and R. S. Harries—Geologists Association, University College, 8.
County Council Meetings.—Chelsea: Mr. Æneas Smith, Queen's-park Hall, Harrow-road. Chairman, Lord Monkswell, 8.15. Deptford: Mr. William Phillips, Besson-street Hall, New-cross, 8. Fulham: Mr. James Beal, Lecture Hall, Bethel Chapel, North-end-road, Lord Hobhouse in the chair, 8. Peckham: Messrs. E. Jones and R. Lyon Collyer, Memorial Schools, High-street, 8.30. West Southwark: Messrs. Haggis and Rhodes, Bricklayers' Hall, Southwark Bridge-road, 8. Bethnal-green, S.W.: Messrs. Branch and Harrison, Shaftesbury Mission Hall, Gossett-street, 8.30. Brixton: Lady Sandhurst and Captain Verney, Denmark-place Chapel Schoolroom, Coldharbour-lane, 8. Bow and Bromley: Miss Jane Cobden, People's Mission Hall, Fern-street. Devons-road, 8.30. Central Finsbury: Mr. F. A. Ford, Foresters' Hall, Clerkenwell-road, 8.30. Norwood: Mr. W. B. Doubleday, Lecture Hall, Gipsy-road, 8. North Islington: Messrs. Grigsby and Parkinson, Junction-road Congregational Schoolroom. Peckham: Messrs. E. Jones and R. Lyon, Collyer Memorial Schools, High-street, 8.30. Wood Green: Major Durrant and Mr. J. R. Fitt, Dovecote Park Schoolroom, 8.30.
Meeting of Policy Holders, Sovereign Life Assurance Company, 1.30.
Lord Salisbury receives a deputation on the subject of National Defences.
Highbury College Réunion Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
New College, Eastbourne, Old Boys' Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
London School Board—Victoria Embankment, 3.
"Why Mexico," by Mr. W. Saunders—Lambeth Baths, 8.30.
The Bishop of Brisbane—Farewell Service—St. John's, Red Lion-square, 8.
Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., presides at the Annual Dinner of the Beresford Constitutional Club, Portman Rooms, Baker-street, 7.

TO-MORROW.

St. James's Hall Ballad Concert, 3.
Messrs. Fullerton and Smith at Exeter Hall, 3.30 and 8.
Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street—Distribution of prizes by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, 8
Royal Botanical Society—Election of Fellows, 12.
"Clouds and Cloudland," Professor Dewar's Christmas lecture—Royal Institution, 3.
Royal Naval Artillery—Annual Meeting Cannon-street Hotel, 3.
Inland Revenue Life Assurance Benevolent Fund, Somerset House, 4.
Royal Academy of Arts—Private View of the Exhibition of Works by Old Masters and Deceased British Artists, 10.
Football Fixtures—Blackheath: London Welsh v. Blackheath—Brondesbury: London Scottish v. Guy's Hospital—Eltham: Queen's v. Clapham Rovers—Harrow: Old Wykehamists v. Old Harrovians—Kennington Oval: Crusaders v. Old Westminsters—Upper Tooting: Casuals v. Clapham Rovers—Wormwood Scrubbs: Kensington v. Old Leysians.
Hunting Appointments—Mid Kent, Lenham, 11.30; East Essex, D'Assay Street, 11; Essex Union, Shenfield Station, 11; Goodwood, Teglease Gate, 11.30; West Kent, Beechy Lee, 11.

LADY CANDIDATES.—A LIBERAL INTERPRETATION.

Sir Thomas Chambers, returning officer for the London County Council, has instructed his deputies to accept the nomination of lady candidates without demur.

THE TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING FOR SWAZILAND.

The Transvaal Government has offered terms to the Swazi King, with a view to take over the possession of his country. A messenger has reported the matter to Sir A. Havelock.

MR. LABOUCHERE'S FLOWERS OF RHETORIC.

Last night Mr. Labouchere, M.P., and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji were entertained at the Junior Reform Club, Liverpool. In responding to the toast of "Gladstone Our Leader," Mr. Labouchere said that Mr. Chamberlain, before he donned the Devonshire livery, before he became the lickspittle of noble lords and the lap-dog of noble ladies, stated that the government of Ireland by England was infinitely worse than the government of Poland by Russia.

FOURTEEN PASSENGERS FROZEN TO DEATH.

TWENTY MORE SAID TO BE DYING.

Odessa papers report a novel and shocking calamity which has just occurred on the Tiflis Railway. A train, which left the Sabuntchi station on the 27th of December, got snowed up *en route*. Several hours elapsed before the nearest station master and a gang of workmen could make their way to the spot. When at length they reached the train they found fourteen of the passengers frozen to death, and twenty more in a dying state. Similar reports come from Baku and Poti, as well as from Ekaterinburg in the Oural region. The loss of life in these and other parts of Russia through frost during the past week is estimated at two hundred persons.

A GERMAN PRINCE GOLD STICK IN WAITING.

A news agency states that General Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, G.C.B., commander of the forces in Ireland, who has been appointed Colonel 1st Life Guards in place of Field-Marshal the Earl of Lucan, G.C.B., will in consequence of the appointment perform the duties of Gold Stick in Waiting, which is divided between the two regiments of Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards.

FOURTH EDITION.

SIR WILLIAM PEARCE'S WILL.—PERSONALTY £1,200,000.

The will of the late Sir William Pearce has been proved, and the personalty sworn at £1,200,000. After making provision for the present baronet in life rent, the remainder is to be divided between Lady Pearce and Sir William Each is to obtain a sum of half a million of money.

SERIOUS EARTHQUAKE IN COSTA RICA.

EIGHT PERSONS KILLED AND MANY INJURED.

Advices from Nicaragua state that a serious earthquake has occurred in Costa Rica. The shocks commenced on December 29 at San José; the most severe occurring on the following day at Alajuela, where eight persons were killed and many injured, while the churches and principal buildings were all badly damaged. The seismic disturbance is supposed to have been caused by the unusual activity in the volcano Poaz, which is in the vicinity of the town.

A COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN SPAIN.

TWENTY-SEVEN LIVES LOST.

A Central News telegram from Madrid announces that an explosion occurred yesterday in one of the pits of the Grison coal mines, situated in the very centre of the coal district of Asturias, and up to the present twenty-seven dead bodies have been recovered.

THE NEW RAILWAY KNIGHT.

SOME DETAILS OF HIS OFFICIAL CAREER.

Sir Myles Fenton, the new railway knight, is a native of Westmoreland, and, as we mentioned yesterday, has had a very long railway career. He began in 1845, at the age of fifteen, in the service of the Kendal and Windermere Railway Company. In 1846 he was transferred to the secretary's office of the East Lancashire Railway Company, and remained there about three years. From 1849 to 1855 he was in the service of the Great Eastern (then Eastern Counties), Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and London and South Western Railways; and also of the Rochdale Canal Company, gaining general experience in the railway and canal traffic of the country. In 1855 Mr. Fenton accepted the position of secretary to the East Lancashire Railway, which company, as above stated, he had joined in the year 1846. In 1859 the East Lancashire was amalgamated with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, when he became assistant manager of the amalgamated system, and remained in that capacity until 1862. In 1862 the Metropolitan Railway was approaching completion, and Mr. Fenton was selected as general manager, to organize and make all arrangements for the working of the traffic, which was of an exceptional character. He remained in that position until December, 1879, a period of seventeen years. During that period 636,811,136 passengers were conveyed over the line, and not a single passenger lost his life from causes beyond his own control. In 1880 he accepted the general managership of the South Eastern Railway, which position he continues to fill. Since he became general manager of that railway, he has come frequently in contact with Royal personages, having personally conveyed over it the Queen's and all the members of her family, with most of the crowned heads of Europe. Among his Continental honours he is a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold of Belgium and of the Legion d'Honneur of France. At home he is a Justice of the Peace for the County of Surrey, an Associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Engineer and Railway Volunteer Staff Corps. Last month Sir Myles lectured before the Aldershot Military Society on "British Railways and their capabilities for Home Defence"—a subject which in his dual capacity as volunteer officer and railway manager he is particularly capable of handling.

SKATING AT RICHMOND PARK.

There were seven degrees of frost in the London district last night. Over most of the ponds in the Parks this morning there is a thin sheet of ice, and if the frost continues during the day and to-night the ice on some of the smaller pieces of water will be fit for skating on to-morrow.

Skating commenced this morning in right good earnest on the shallow stretches of water in Richmond Park. The ice on Penn Ponds is scarcely in fit condition; however, skating promises to be general to-morrow if there is no atmospheric change in the meantime. The local watermen have conveyed their usual apparatus to the Park in case of accident, and have constituted themselves the chief attendants.

MR. BRIGHT.

Mr. Bright's condition is this morning about the same. He slept for six hours last night.

MR. HARRINGTON, M.P., AT HARD LABOUR.

Mr. Harrington, M.P., was visited in gaol yesterday by Mr. Reidy, of Castleisland, who found him picking oakum in his cell. He had been working in the stoneyard in the morning, and was suffering from the effects of cold caused by the extremely cold cell in which he was confined the first two nights of his incarceration. He has been removed to a warmer cell.

ABOUT QUEENS OF SONG.

Mdme. Patti will not return from Paris until Sunday. It is said she has promised to go back once more after the fulfilment of her London concert engagements and give some additional representations as Juliette. This, however, is not yet absolutely decided. A London correspondent is able to contradict, on good authority, the statement that Mdme. Patti has purchased the estate at Chenouceaux. Mdme. Trebelli, who has been suffering from a slight return of her paralytic affection, is again better, and able to get about, but will not be well enough to sing until the second Patti concert at the Albert Hall on the 22nd inst.

LONDONERS AND THE FALL OF THE BASTILE.

The suggestion that a meeting should be held in London to commemorate the fall of the Bastile is (writes the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*) being heartily taken up, and no doubt the proposal will be supported by the leaders of the Radical party. There are, perhaps, two steps in the French Revolution that all English Liberals can join in celebrating without reserve. The one is the meeting of the States-General and the other the fall of the Bastile. Mr. Morley ought to be the president of the meeting to celebrate the fall of the Bastile, and Mr. Frederic Harrison the "orator" of the occasion.

A NEW TERROR FOR PICKPOCKETS.

Sneak thieves and watch snatchers are likely to have a hard time of it soon from the police. In view of the ease with which these gentry ply their light-fingered trade on foggy days and winter evenings, it is reported that the new Chief Commissioner intends supplying his force with means of "nabbing" the rapid-handed ones with a celerity exeeeding their own quickness. It is not known as yet what form the new instrument is to take. Hitherto a constable has had to depend upon his hands and strong muscles. Perhaps Mr. Monro means to arm them with the "grip" of the American police, or to give them the "bowstring" of the Turk. But again he may have a modified form of lasso, for the new instrument, it is said, will enable the constable to get a good view of the features of his prize. The American "grip," which is a species of single handcuff, capable of being suddenly slipped on to the wrist of the offender, and rendering him simply powerless, is the most probable innovation. The police of London will hail such an obvious accessory with delight, and it will doubtless be a great assistance to them in the arrest and detection of a class of criminals which at the present season seems to absolutely revel in their immunity from arrest.

The Russian Ambassador has returned to town from visiting the Earl and Countess of Derby at Knowsley. Mdme. and Mdlle. de Staal have also arrived at the Russian Embassy from passing a few days at Bournemouth.

THE "NITRATE KING."

COLONEL JOHN T. NORTH AND HIS FANCY BALL.

Long before this time to-morrow morning all London, and very likely all England, will resound with the story of one of the greatest social events of the Christmas season—one of the biggest things in fancy dress balls that London has seen for many a year. All through the night Northumberland-avenue will be alive with carriages and cabs, and vehicles, private and public, of every description, and sounds of revelry will fill the air from midnight till morning. For will not the thousand guests of Colonel J. T. North be enjoying themselves and each other's society in the great Whitehall suite of the Hôtel Métropole?

Even to-day, though he counts his friends by the thousand, and though he has been well before the English public for the past year, there still remain many who incontinently ask the question, "Who *is* Colonel North?"

Everybody, that is "everybody as is anybody," has heard of the twofold millionaire, the "Nitrate King," the successful agriculturist, the big-hearted philanthropist, the lavish entertainer—and there the knowledge of the majority stops. The following sketch will fill in some of the gaps:—

John T. North was born in the year 1840 in a village in Yorkshire, not far from Leeds, where, at the age of eighteen, he was apprenticed to the engineering trade. When his time was out he entered the service of Messrs. Fowler, of Leeds, the steam plough makers. While in their employ young North was entrusted with the charge of some machinery which the Fowlers were sending to Chili for the manufacture of nitrate of soda for soil fertilization. This machinery North was to put up and fix in some factories in Chili. He was by no means loath to undertake the work, as he already had a brother settled in South America, and he was pleased at the thought of joining him.

So away he went, this vigorous, enterprising young Yorkshireman, perhaps with some idea of "bettering" himself, possibly with the hope of making the moderate sum which to him would seem a "fortune," but hardly with the smallest anticipation of becoming one day possessed of such enormous wealth as literally to be unable to compute its extent, for that is the present financial condition of Colonel North.

Greatly due to the unconquerable determination of this man is the development which has taken place in the manufacture and use of nitrate of soda. While superintending the erection of the machinery with which he was sent out by the Messrs. Fowler twenty years ago, the young engineer first acquired a practical knowledge of the art of producing the nitrate from the raw material, or "caliche," as the natives call it, then a keen appreciation of the value of particular grounds in which the nitrate was likely to abound. In course of time he constructed factories of his own, and built lines of railway to each, connecting them with one marvellous railroad across the slopes of the Andes from Pisagua to Iquique, two ports from which the wondrous nitrate is shipped to all parts of the world.

A few words about the nitrate of soda, which has given Colonel North his sobriquet and his wealth as well, may not be uninteresting. Lying embedded in the sand on the west coast of South America, a coarse material called caliche, much used by the natives for fertilizing purposes, is found. From this material, by means of boiling and evaporation, the nitrate of soda of commerce is produced. For such worn out old soils as those of England and many European countries, the effect of this comparatively new fertiliser is simply marvellous, and it will nowhere be denied that to Colonel North's sagacity the introduction of nitrate of soda to farmers and cultivators is almost solely due.

On his return to England some fifteen years ago Mr. North settled down upon a beautiful farm at Avery Hill, Eltham, Kent, where he is renowned for his hospitality and excellent farming. A few years ago he was offered and accepted the colonelcy of the Tower Hamlets Royal Engineers, which under his command has become one of the crack volunteer regiments. Quite recently he accepted the mastership of the Mid-Kent staghounds, which hunt he conducts on a style of princely liberality. At the hunt breakfasts the tables groan with good things for which huntsmen sigh, and champagne flows like water.

A worthy partner and assistant in all Colonel North's liberality is Mrs. North, who, with her only daughter, conducts the acts of hospitality at Avery Hill in which the Colonel delights. His son Harry has just completed his terms at Cambridge, and taken a commission in the Royal Munster Fusiliers; he is an enthusiastic cricketer and good all-round sportsman.

Such then is a brief account of the man whose name will be on everybody's lips to-morrow, whose hospitality will be received by a thousand guests to-night, who has taken an entire suite at the Métropole, consisting of ball room and waiting and reception rooms, together with over one hundred bedrooms, and who is one of the richest men in England to-day. It is certain that no expense will be spared to make the event of to-night unique, everything that can be done to give Colonel North's ball a character of unparalleled magnificence and generosity will undoubtedly be carried into effect.

DOWN WITH DIAMOND DUST!

IS FROST POWDER A DANGER TO DANCERS?

Some one has been saying in the papers that if ladies will powder their hair with diamond dust, they must take the consequences. Of course, every one knows what a delightful appearance a shower of this glittering powder gives to ladies or gentlemen in fancy dress. The man who cries, "Beware!" says that it looks pretty, and when used for decorating still objects is all right. But when it is peppered profusely on any number of human heads and dresses in constant motion, the diamond dust naturally comes off, and the alarmist says the glass gets into the lungs.

One of our representatives called this morning at a well-known fancy warehouse where diamond dust is sold, and saw the manager, to whom he put a few questions. "Bah!" he said. "Bah! Pooh, bah! Another scare. Of course it is bad for the lungs, so is fog; but the small quantity that can float about in a ballroom couldn't hurt any one."

"Are not all powders bad for the health?"

"Yes; all powders are bad if they are used in excess."

"Is diamond a frost powder made from broken glass?" The manager looked up from a new scent which he was negotiating and laughed in my face. "Broken glass would be dangerous, but diamond powder is made from glass flax. The workman dips an iron pipe into the molten liquid, blows out a bubble, just like a child making a soap bubble. He then crushes the ball in his hand, and the powder falls into a receiver. There is the whole secret."

MISS NELLIE FARREN IN NEW YORK.

The Gaiety Company is having a high time in New York, if what follows is correct. The details are taken from the *New York World*:—"Nellie Farren is the prime favourite, and as she comes out and crosses the pavement to her brougham there are cries of, 'Good night, Nellie!' from every side. 'Good night, boys,' she calls out, as the brougham drives away. Of course we have nothing of this sort of thing here at all. None of our theatres are patronized by every-night contingents, and the stage doors after the performance are marked only by a few stragglers, the majority of whom are waiting for actors or actresses whom they intimately know. The cases where personal relations exist between people in the audience and people on the stage are isolated ones, and if the facts happen to leak out they are considered and discussed with considerable curiosity. The reasons for the condition of affairs in London and the essentially different condition of affairs here could without doubt be easily formulated if any efforts were made to do so. Some observers are of the opinion that there is not so much human nature in New York as there is in London. But the main reason undoubtedly is that the young men here have neither the time nor the money to indulge in such diversions as are characteristic of the Johnnie in London, and, unless the example of the delegation of Johnnies now in New York should inspire imitation this phase of life attendant on the theatrical business will probably never be reproduced on this side of the Atlantic.

"The Gaiety girls had no sooner established themselves at the Standard Theatre here than a delegation of "Johnnies" arrived from England, and the two great divisions of the Gaiety army, which had been separated by reason of the cruel necessity for the company's tour around the world, clasped hands on American soil. There are about twenty of these representatives now in town; they're to be seen nightly, and are readily distinguished in the lobbies of Mr. Duff's house, filling the atmosphere with cigarette smoke and their characteristic accent. They appear invariably in full dress, and seem to have nothing in the world to do except to smoke the cigarettes and patronize the neighbouring cafés.

"Outside of this fifty who form the backbone of what may be called the Gaiety Burlesque Club, there are scores of young men about town, in Government offices, and in the army, also members in good standing, who drop in several times a week. Indeed, not to be seen at the Gaiety pretty frequently is equivalent to being out of the swim. Even when the army men are transferred outside of London they come up to town as often as possible. They travel in droves from such places as Aldershot and other suburbs, and return in the morning about two or three o'clock, either with the guards or perhaps the coffins, that are taken to the Woking Cemetery."

STRAYED REVELLERS ON BOX HILL.

AN EARLY MORNING ADVENTURE.

"The other day you described 'Law and Literature lost in a Fog,'" said a gentleman who called at our office this morning. "The story of my nocturnal adventures in the country lanes of Surrey fairly parallels the helpless wanderings of your correspondents in a London fog. It is not without its moral, either, which may be put thus: When your coachman has to wait for you at an evening party see that he is supplied with such comforts as hot coffee or other temperance drinks, and with this justification treat as a high dereliction of duty any more alcoholic means of keeping out the cold to which he may be inclined to resort.

"Last night I was one of a party of two ladies and two gentlemen who drove from Epsom to the county ball at Dorking. It is a comfortable drive, if my impressions were correct, of less than an hour. Our coachman, a stolid fellow indigenous to the district, but of course blankly ignorant of all but a few beaten tracks and devoid of any bump of locality, was engaged along with the vehicle from a respectable proprietor. About half-past two, with the strains of 'En Revenant' sounding in our ears, we started home, tired but contented. For about an hour's journeying through a dark landscape we lay back, half asleep and oblivious, in that spirit of utter resignation into the driver's hands which one feels after a dance. After that we began to notice a number of turnings round, tentative halts, and other disquieting signs. When at length we began to traverse a certain bit of road apparently for the third time we called a parley. It then appeared from the monosyllabic answers from the box that John was in a somewhat clouded state of mind as to the way. He had when starting just 'followed another carriage,' and so very naturally gone wrong.

"However, we proceeded dubiously till on the fringe of an inhabited region we met a policeman. But John seemed past apprehending his directions, and after bowling along recklessly for a time, we came to a sign-post at the cross roads from which, on investigation, it appeared that we were three miles from Dorking and going straight back there.

"After some delay a passing carriage of belated and rather incoherent revellers was luckily hailed, and turned us right back on our tracks, not without laughter. John was now sullen, reticent, and hopeless. He had no notion where he was, no suggestion to offer, and no pretence of better prospects. Some dogged wanderings brought us to a railway crossing—I am not acquainted with the country—where we got a hint from a signalman, rolled by in the darkness, and misinterpreted the hint at the next fork. The wrong limb brought us to a farmhouse with, strange to say, a light in the window (it was now about four), and a protruded head sent us packing again.

"John, now hopelessly demoralized, made a false try or two at farmyards and back gardens before finding and following the turn we had left; but at last we found ourselves climbing the road up what is known, I believe, as Gravel Hill: it appears to be part of Box Hill, and for this part of the country is exceedingly steep. Our driver began with an attempt to 'rush' it, but only reduced the poor panting beast to utter prostration. We proceeded a few steps at a time, and the tired hack seemed unable to prevent the carriage slipping back again. We the gent'emen—walked, and compelled John to lead the horse. Again and again it seemed if the latter would drop, and the carriage roll backwards. We two pushed behind and hauled away at the spokes of the wheel: the road was not suited to this work in dancing pumps, but frequent dismountings to scan signposts or to hail people had made us callous.

"At last there was nothing for it but for the ladies also to dismount, and out they floated, pitifully enough, in the incongruous glories of the ball-room. But this last steep proved to our joy to be the climax of the hill, and once at the top our spirits revived, even John now awaking from torpid despair to claim that he knew the way, and that all the rest was level or down-hill.

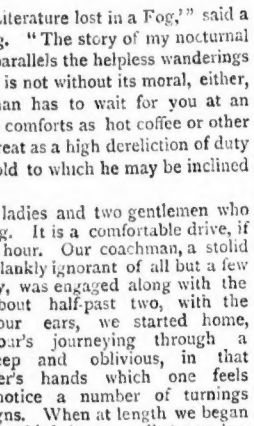
"At this point one of the ladies found with dismay that she had in the flurry of dismounting dropped her gold bracelet—a special treasure. This seemed the last straw; but search with a carriage lamp luckily discovered it in the road.

"After this all was plain sailing. A reserve of energy was found in the horse. It was with some qualms that we dimly saw the waste of downs and heath through which we now spun; but at length to our infinite relief we found ourselves, instead of bivouacking in an unharnessed cab beside the corpse of an ill-fated horse somewhere on Box Hill, actually within hail of home, which we reached about half-past five this morning, or just two hours before I had to get up to catch my London train."

LADY BRASSEY'S LAST BOOK.

TO BE PUBLISHED THIS MONTH.

It is only natural that a great though melancholy interest should be felt in Lady Brassey's last volume of travel, which will be published by Messrs. Longmans towards the end of the month. Has not the "Voyage of the *Sunbeam*" found its way into every house where books are read, and has it not become a classic because of the freshness and the simplicity with which the hardy and adventurous wife of Lord Brassey described the wanderings of the famous yacht in every sea and over every ocean? Although the "Voyage" was far the most popular of the three books of travel which Lady Brassey published—In "The Trades, the Tropics, and the Roaring Forties," and "Storm and Sunshine"—of course, the others which are enumerated had a great vogue, and many people whose literary food is largely supplied by books of travel, are looking forward with keen interest to the Last Voyage. "I believe," says one of our representatives, "that it will exceed in sumptuosity any of its predecessors. Lady Brassey took a keen interest in its production, and I believe made a special request to the Messrs. Longmans, when at Brisbane, that it should be made as handsome as possible."



LADY BRASSEY.

MR. PRITCHETT'S BEAUTIFUL SKETCHES.

Few authors, of course, are ever in the position of Lady Brassey, who only had to rub the lamp to summon the genius. She indicated the number of illustrations, and particularly desired that they should be executed by the most skilful engravers. Mr. Pritchett executed all the original drawings, and very beautiful they are, and scattered profusely throughout the 500 pages of which the book consists. The pictorial feature of the book, which will interest all book lovers, will be the lovely monotint half-page chapter heads, which form the top to each chapter, and are about twenty in number. They represent incidents of travel, and exquisite little seascapes. Here is a muster of elephants in India, there a highly effective sketch of "the coaling" at Port Said; and here you see the bold, sea-worn bluffs which form the entrance to Sydney Harbour. I say nothing of the really exquisite little bits of coral, palms, and tropical foliage, and so on.

THE MONOTINTS AND THE ENGRAVINGS.

Another feature will be some twenty full-page monotints—in the same style as the chapter heads. These have all been done by Nister, of Nuremberg, the well-known lithographer; and although they are monotints, soft brown in colour, they are executed in fine tones. Mr. Whymper, Mr. Cooper, and Mr. Pearson have executed the highly finished and delicate wood engravings, and here I may say that it is quite possible—*if you pay the price*—to get woodcuts quite equal in execution to the best American work.

EDITED BY LADY BROOME.

I should, perhaps, add that the editing of the volume has been done by Lady Broome (Lady Barker, whose book on New Zealand is itself a classic which it is always refreshing to read). Lady Brassey wrote industriously, and all her journals were placed in Lady Broome's hands. The cover is deep blue with gold edgings, and a simple monogram—A.B.—stamped on it. The price is a guinea.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Dividends announced for the half year:—London Joint Stock Bank at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum; Union Discount Company of London at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum; the Imperial Bank at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum; the Bank of Bombay of 10 per cent. for the past year: the Bristol and West of England Bank at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; Lancashire Insurance Company, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum: For -street Warehouse Company at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year; Pawson and Co., 3*s.* 9*d.* per share for the period ended December 21, 1888; Welford and Sons, interim for past half-year, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum; General Assets Purchase Company, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for half-year; De Beers Consolidated Mines, 5 per cent.; and River Plate Telephone Company, 3*s.* per share (interim).

AMERICAN v. ENGLISH ACTORS.

THE UNITED STATES A PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT FOR ENGLISH DRAMATIC COMPANIES.

Regarding the agitation in theatrical circles in the United States in opposition to the free immigration of English actors, the New York newspapers have all something to say, and most of them are not in favour of the agitators. The *Morning Journal* denies strenuously that the agitation is either believed in or advocated by the larger number of American actors, "the larger number" meaning, of course, those who are employed. The unemployed, of course, come to the conclusion that a couple of hundred English actors, all told, in the country are the reason why two or three thousand Americans can get nothing to do.

"But," the article proceeds, "there is a broader purpose, which in its inception is fraught unquestionably with danger to American art. The idea is this—Irving, when he first came over here, started an era in dramatic matters. His coming was a revelation, and taught us many things we did not know before. But it also taught the English something. First, that during their off seasons they could come in large bodies to this country—in fact, as perfect organizations, easily get into our best theatres, where they are eagerly sought, and shoulder out of the way American opposition. Secondly: that whether the season was on or off in England, English managers, with anything like a success here, could make a great deal more money travelling about America and playing to American prices while paying English salaries, than they could make in their own country. Viewed practically from this standpoint, it is something similar to the importation of pauper labour, and may be compared to the objectionable invasion of the Chinese. The fares across the ocean are now so small as not to form a weighty argument against the exportation from England of large bodies of actors, as is proved by Mr. T. Henry French.

"Mr. French contemplates obtaining control of a string of theatres in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago, which shall be portion of a theatrical circuit having London as its starting-point and headquarters. By this system new plays will be produced there, and, if successful, companies will immediately be organized in London for the English provinces and the chain of theatres controlled by Mr. French in America. Naturally in these organizations there would be no American actor. He could easily in this manner bring six or eight or ten companies a year, simply extending the system now pursued by Mis Mary Anderson with her English company at Palmer's, and the Gaiety burlesque company, with its English company at the Standard. Miss Anderson's company have drawn continuously the largest audiences that have ever been known at Palmer's, late Wallack's, theatre. Irving with his company did the best business known at his time; so did D'Oyly Carte, when he had his 'Mikado' here; so, too, did Wyndham, when he brought his company over. This all proves very conclusively that the system has only to be extended to seriously injure American dramatic enterprise. It is not the single actors who come over here to join companies already in existence that the bill is aimed at. It is against the fast coming time when America will simply be a portion of the English provincial circuit, when the system which is now in its infancy is extended to that point that all our combination theatres will be considered the legitimate prey of perfected organizations from the other side. The American actor is only whimpering now; he will have cause to howl when that day comes, for it will simply mean the centralization of dramatic enterprise in London, and the necessity for him to go over there to get an engagement in America."

The *New York Herald* exclaims:—"The outcome? Why, there can be none, but a great deal of smoke and bitterness and anger. When the actors have done there will remain the public, which asks and will have the amusement it pleases. You may pass bills in Congress and vote protection. You can't force the public to fill the theatres. If the people want Irving they will have Irving, and as Irving will not act here alone his company will come with him."

A LETTER FROM A PRIMA DONNA.

LONDON PANTOMIME WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN RUSSIA

I looked in yesterday (writes one of our representatives) at Drury Lane, and Mr. Harris read me a diverting epistle from Miss Ella Russell, in which she describes her adventures in Russia. The letter is dated "Hôtel d'Europe, December 31, Warsaw." "After a very tiresome voyage I arrived safe and sound in Warsaw, and have sung already Rigoletto and Faust. This morning I had an orchestral rehearsal for 'Romeo e Giuletta,' and to-morrow am to sing it for the first time in my life. 'Romeo' is also announced for Thursday, and two days ago every ticket for these two representations was sold, as was also the case for 'Rigoletto' and 'Faust.' I shall not go to St. Petersburg this year. I hear that Masini, Scalchi, and the other artistes, Mdlle. Arnoldson excepted, have decided to finish the season there, sharing the proceeds among them.

DRURIOLANUS THE IMAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

"Every one here asks about you (Mr. Harris), *the* great impresario. They ask me if I have your photo (which, unfortunately, I haven't), and how you look. and if you are young or old, and ugly or handsome. I tell them all you are thirty-two, and the exact image of the Prince of Wales, only rather better looking. Please let me know as soon as possible the exact date for the opening of the London season."

THE PROSPECTS OF PANTOMIME IN RUSSIA.

"Our president, the Senator Gudowsky, and Mdme. Kaptal, both think that if you were to bring pantomime (as you give it in London) to Russia you would be immediately successful, as it is something entirely new for Russia."

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE TELEPHONE.

The committee of the Stock Exchange has made one step in accord with the times in permitting the telephone to be established within the building but why do they stop at the point they have done? Only members of the Stock Exchange who subscribe to the Exchange Telegraph Company's tape can communicate with each other at present, the objection to other subscribers being, it is understood, that the "outside" broker would take advantage of the telephone to compete with those inside. But very shortly the "outsider" may be in a better position to do business with country clients than those inside, from the very fact that the telephone is excluded. The trunk wires to Manchester and Liverpool will very soon be completed, and the "outsider' will then be able to communicate with the great provincial towns as rapidly as the members, or even more so. This view has been urged upon the committee, and, on their part, we understand the United Telephone Company have offered to directly connect, by means of a trunk wire, the London and provincial exchanges. In addition to that the Telephone Company are prepared to connect the London Exchange with the general service. The telephone obviously gives an advantage over the telegraph, as there is no delay between question and answer, and dealings may take place simultaneously. In view of the speedy junction of the metropolitan and provincial telephone systems we may note that the arrangements for the amalgamation of the three leading companies are making progress although slowly.

We regret to announce that Mr. Halliwell Phillips, the well-known Shakspearian scholar and critic, died at his residence near Brighton yesterday, after a short illness, at the age of sixty-eight.

The Rev. Benjamin Waugh, the honorary secretary of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Society, is now paying a visit to the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen at their seat, Haddo House, Aberdeenshire.

Major-General F. F. Hamilton has been selected for the command of the Western Military District.

The Duke of Rutland is somewhat seriously indisposed, and is confined to his room at Belvoir Castle.

The Empress Frederick and her daughters, who are on a visit to the Queen at Osborne, will arrive at Buckingham Palace to-morrow. The Empress will remain in town for a week, and then go to Sandringham, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

It is reported that Sir Phillip Currie will shortly go for a visit to the South of France.

Sir Arthur Blyth, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for South Australia, has received a telegram from the Government at Adelaide stating that the drought has broken up, and splendid rains have fallen throughout the colony.

Lord Derby yesterday resigned the chairmanship of the board of directors of the National Liberal Club Buildings Company, and also his membership of the club. We understand that all the other directors, with one exception, are supporters of Mr. Gladstone. In consequence of the unusual pressure of candidates the club committee has decided to meet fornightly instead of monthly. Among the representative men who come up for election at the next meeting are the Earl of Cavan and the president of the Birmingham Liberal Association, Mr. A. C. Osler.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

MARKETS QUIET AND DULL.—CHANGES SLIGHT.—NO FEATURE.

The discount market is quiet, with only a small number of bills offering, and the rate for three months' bank paper is again called 3⅛ to 3¼ per cent., the former being nearer the actual working rate. There is a fair demand for short loans in connection with the repayments falling due at the Bank of England, but as the supply at the moment is so large, the charge is no more than about 2½ per cent. The continued decline in the discount rate led yesterday to a further movement against this country in the foreign exchanges, and it is not at all unlikely that gold may be withdrawn from us. The large receipt of gold from Russia yesterday is expected to be supplemented to-day by a further considerable influx from the same quarter, but operators are not so sanguine as they were a short time back as to the continuance of easy money. It remains to be seen how the market will stand after the repayment to the Bank of England of the whole of the recent borrowings.

The speculative activity noticeable on the Stock Exchange on the resumption of business on Wednesday has been of short duration, and markets now present a quiet and uninteresting appearance. To some extent the condition of the Money Market is accountable for this state of things, but the fact that the public has not come in so freely as had been anticipated has also helped to check fresh commitments. Consols are scarcely so strong, Old Three per Cents. showing a decline of ⅛, while in the Home Railway market the variations are mostly adverse. Chatham descriptions however, continue to be purchased and are again higher. Foreign Government bonds are absolutely without feature. American Railroad securities have again given way. A week or two back operators hoped that a permanent recovery had set in, and again, on Wednesday, it was asserted that at last the corner had been turned, and now we witness a continuous decline all day yesterday and again this morning. There was no heavy decline compared with last night, however. Trunks are lifeless, but Mexican Railway issues have been rather offered. There is less doing in Mines and Miscellaneous securities, and a weak tone is observable in some directions.

We remarked yesterday in one of our Business Notes that the claims made on behalf of the electrical process for refining sugar had been scouted by experts. This opinion was confirmed in the course of the day by telegram from New York, and at once there was a rush to get out of Electric Sugar shares Business has been done in them at over £100 (they are £20 shares fully paid) and even yesterday there was a transaction at £80, but on the receipt of the news there was an immediate drop to £10. About one-third of the subscribed capital is held in Liverpool.

The International Sugar Syndicate, which has been registered at Somerset House, has a nominal capital of £3,000. This is a modest sum as compared with the great objects it proposes. So far the sugar trade knows nothing of the plans of the syndicate.

The returns of joint-stock enterprises at Somerset House for the year just ended are phenomenal. The aggregate capitals amount to over £400,000,000, as against £168,000,000 in 1887. Obviously much of this capital is merely on paper, as many of the undertakings will never pass beyond the registration stage.

Lloyds Barnetts and Bosanquet's Bank (Limited), 72, Lombard-street London, and Messrs. Gurneys, Birkbecks, Barclay, and Buxtons bankers, Norwich, offer for subscription, at all their branches £800,000, part of £1,200,000 debenture stock, at 102 per cent. redeemable at the option of the company after 20 years at 108 per cent., of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co. (Limited), of London and Burton-on-Trent. This company has in addition a share capital of 12,150 Ordinary shares of £100 each. The vendors retain the whole of the share capital and one-third (£400,000) of the debenture stock. The accountants' certificate states that the average net profits for the past five years were £211,102, and that the net profits of the last year, from July 4, 1887, to July 2, 1888, after making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, were £207,284. The list will open on Saturday, the 5th inst., and close on the 7th.

Messrs. Frederick Huth and Co. and J. Henry Schröder and Co. are authorized by the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company (Limited) to invite subscriptions for £1,150,000, or 11,500 shares, at par, part of the capital of £1,450,000, in 14,500 shares of £100 each. The company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring from the Compañia Huanchaca de Bolivia the concessions granted by the Governments of Chili and Bolivia for the construction and working of railways and telegraphs from the port of Antofagasta, in Chili, to Huanchaca, in Bolivia, a distance of about 650 kilomètres, including the privilege granted by the Government of Chili of establishing waterworks for the supply of the railway and the district it serves, including the town of Antofagasta. The Huanchaca Company has already constructed and opened for traffic the whole of the Chilian line, 440 kilomètres in length, up to the frontier. The Compañia Huanchaca de Bolivia guarantees for a period of fifteen years the payment of a quarterly dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum upon the capital of the company. The list will be opened on the 5th and closed on or before the 8th.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Opened steady, with a fair demand. Probable sales, 10,000 bales. Prices on the spot are firm. Futures are steady, at one point advance.

The following are the changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Chatham Ordinary and Preference ¼, and North Eastern ¼. *Receded*: Hull and Barnsley, Great Western, Sheffield Deferred, Midland, and North British Preferred ⅛ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Austrian Silver ½, and Turkish Defence ¼. *Declined*: Peruvian 1872 ⅛, and Egyptian Unified 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Fallen*: Milwaukee and St. Paul ½, Denver Preference ½, the Ordinary ⅛, Louisville and Nashville ¼, Central Pacific, New York Central, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Union Pacific shares ⅜, Lake Shore, Erie shares, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, Northern Pacific Preference, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Mississippi Ordinary, and Wabash Mortgage and Preference ¼ each, and New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Lombardo-Venetian 1-16, and Varna Obligations ⅛. *Lower*: Canadian Pacific ¼, Mexican First Preference ¼, the Ordinary ⅛, and Grand Trunk First Preference ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: Imperial Ottoman Bank 1-16. *Receded*: Liverpool Nitrate ½, De Beers ¼, Rio Tinto 3-16, Suez Canal ¼, Allsopp's and Spratts ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			
Consols	99⅜	100	
New Consols (2¾)	98⅞	¾	
Reduced 3 p. c.	100⅝	¾	
Local Loan Stock	103½	4	
New 2½ per Cent.	90	½	
India 3½ per Cent.	107	½	
Do. 4½ p. c. Rn.	70¾	1	
Egyptian Guar.	101	2	
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	111⅛	12½	
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	103¾	4	
Birmingham Crp. St	111	12	
Liverpool	110¾	11¼	
FOREIGN STOCKS.			
Argentine 6 p. c.	101	3	
Do. Hard Dols.	67½	8½	
Do. Treasury	94	6	
Austrian Gold	90	2	
Do. Silver	63¼	9½xd	
Brazilian 1875	101	2 xd	
B. Ayres 6 p. c.	99	101	
Do. Cedulas I.	59¼	¾	
Chilian 4½ p. c. 1885	100	2 xd	
Costa Rica A.	99	2 xd	
Do. B	89½	90½xd	
Egypt. State Dom.	89¼	1¼	
Do. Unified	83⅝	⅜	
Do. Preference	102⅛	⅜	
Do. Daira Sanieh	79⅝	⅜	
French 3 p. c. Rnts.	81½	2¼xd	
Do. 4½ p. c. Rnts.	103¼	¼	
Greek 5 p. c. 1881.	83⅞	4½xd	
Hung. Gold Rentes	84½	¼xd	
Italian	94	¼xd	
Mexican Converted	39	¼xd	
Peruvian 5 p. c. '72	14⅛	⅛	
Do. 6 p. c.	16	⅛	
Portuguese	63½	¼xd	
Russian 1873	99⅜	⅛	
Spanish 4 p. c.	72	5/16 7/16 xd	
Turkish 1854	99	101	
Group I.	26½	7¼	
Group 2	15½	¾	
Group 3	15⅛	¾	
Group 4	83½	4	
4½ p. c. 1871	95¾	6¼	
5 p. c. Defence	82	4	
5 p. c. Priority	63¼	¾xd	
Uruguay Unified	40	1	
Virginia Funded	110	12	
U.S. 4½ p. c.			
BRITISH RAILWAYS.			
Caledonian	117⅞	13¼	
Great Eastern	68⅜	⅞	
Great Northern	117	18	
Ditto A	102½	3½	
Great Western	151⅛	⅝	
Hull and Barnsley	33½	4	
Lanc. and York.	113	19	
Brighton (Ordinary)	143	5	
Brighton A	132¾	3	
Chatham (Ordinary)	24⅜	⅜	
Do. Preference	104¼	¾	
North Western	175⅜	⅝	
South Western	143½	4½	
Manchester & Shef.	65	70	
Do. A	35⅝	⅞	
Met. Consolidated	76¾	1¼	
Do. Land Stock	70	1	
Do. District	55	½	
Midland	137¼	½	
North British Pref.	75	¾	
Do. Def.	55¾	⅜	
North Eastern	163¾	½	
North Stafford	112	14	
South Eastern	132	4	
Do. Deferred	107¼	8⅜	
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.			
Canada Pacific	53¼	½	
Can. Pacific Share	36	½	
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	63⅝	⅜	
Denver & R. Grande	16⅜	17⅜	
Do. Pref.	45	½	
Illinois Shares	117½	18¾	
Lake Shore	103¾	6	
Ohio & Mississippi	21¾	2¼	
Louis. and Nash.	67⅜	8⅛	
Mex. Cen. Bonds	67¼	⅛xd	
Miss. Kan. & Texas	13⅜	14	
N. Y. Cen. Shares	111	½	
New York Ontario	15¾	⅛	
Erie Shares	21½	¾	
Do. Sec. Mort.	100	⅜	
Norfolk & West. Pref	51⅛	⅜	
N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	34¾	⅛xd	
North Pacific Pref.	61	¼	
Pennsylvania Sh.	54½	5	
Phil. & Read. Sh.	24¾	5	
Union Pacific Shares	65	½	
Wabash Preference	25¾	¾	
Do. Gen. Mort.	40	¼	
Grand Trunk Ord.	10⅜	¼	
Do. First Pref.	65½	¼	
Do. Second Pref.	46⅜	⅜	
Do. Third Pref.	25¼	⅜	
Do. Guaranteed	71⅜	⅜	
Mexican Ordinary	42⅜	3⅝	
Do. First Pref.	115½	¼	
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	70½	1	
Lombardo-Venetian	9	⅛	
Varna 3 per cent.	7⅞	8⅛	
Nitrate Railway	28¼	¼	
BANKS.			
Alliance Bank	141	¾	
City Bank	203	1½	
Consolidated Bank	8	⅝	
Imperial Ottoman	11 7/16	9/16	
London and County	86	7	
Union of London	40	1	
London and West.	68½	8½	
London Joint Stock	40	1	
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43	4	
Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	48½	9½	
MINES.			
Indian Consolidated	5/16	3/8	
Mysore shares	3¾	⅞	
Oregums	1⅜	¾	
Cape Copper	5¾	6	
Namaqua	5⅜	⅜	
Mason and Barry	9¾	10	
Rio Tinto	25⅞	⅝	
Montana £1 shares	2	1⅛	
DeBeers new shares	15⅝	⅞	
S. African Explor.	17⅛	⅜xall	
Anglo-American	8⅜	9¼	
Do. Pref.	8⅛	⅜	
Brazilian Submarine	10⅝	⅛	
Direct Unit. States	9¾	10	
Eastern	12¾	⅛	
Ditto Extension	12⅜	⅜	
United Telephone	14	⅛	
Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅜	7/8	
TRAMWAYS, ETC.			
London Gen. Om.	1.6	206	
London Street	13	14	
London Tramway	14¼	15¼	
North Metropolitan	17½	18	
WATERWORKS.			
Chelsea Waterworks	206	61	
East London	200	3	
Grand Junction	121	5	
Kent	277	82	
Lambeth	252	7	
New River, New	350	60	
Nthwk & Vauxhall	165	70	
W. Middlesex	261	5	
GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT.			
Gaslight & Coke A	249	55	
Imp. Continental	204	7	
South Metropolitan	297	302	
Brush Elec. Lt. (£4 pd)	3¼	4	
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Allsopp	7¾	8	
Guinness and Co.	312½	16	
Hotchkiss	11¼	⅛	
Bryant and May	12⅞	13⅛	
Spratt's Patent	10¾	⅛	
Liverpool Nitrate	30	1	
Primitiva Nitrate	33	⅛	
Salt Union Shares	3¼	4 pm	
P. and O. Steam	6⅜	6	
Royal Mail Steam	62	4	
Nat. Discount Co.	11½	12	
Hudson's Bay	18½	19	
Suez Canal	88¼	¾xd	
E. & W. Ind. Dock	18	21	
London and St. K.	39	41	

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bell's Asbestos	10¼	⅛	Wemmers	14¾	⅞
Tarapaca Water	16½	17	Langlaagtes	6⅜	⅛
Oceana Land	18	19	Jubilee	10¾	11¼
Jumper's Gold	13½	14	Robinson	9	
Spes Bona	6¾	7¼	San Jorge	9¼	¼

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

Sir Robert Morier, whose correspondence with Count Herbert Bismarck is the topic of the hour all over Europe, is at the head of the English Diplomatic corps. Said an old Foreign Secretary to me once, "He possesses more knowledge, more experience, and more energy than all the rest of our Ambassadors put together."

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Sir Robert, whose son is now sledging his way back to St. Petersburg from the Obi, in Siberia, spent some months in this country this autumn. He made a long visit to Ireland, and brought back all his old impressions intensified, and they were quite sufficiently vehement before. He is now sixty-two years of age, was educated at Balliol, and has been in the diplomatic service since 1853.

***

I received a letter yesterday afternoon (January 3) from the Travelling Commissioner of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, dated "Naval Club, Vladivostock, October 4." It was posted the next day, and sent home overland by Siberia, so that it has taken almost exactly three months to reach me. The difference between the post across Siberia and across the Pacific is therefore four weeks.

***

Mr. Henry Broadhurst, M.P., is now on the sick list at Cromer. I am glad to hear that he is somewhat better. The weather there is superb. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday were among the most brilliant days that have been seen, and the scenes from the hills, over woods, fields, and valleys, would gladden the heart of a landscape painter, and the sea view has been most beautiful. Mr. Broadhurst says he can scarcely imagine anything more grand.

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Somebody, it seems, has referred to the late Lady Augusta Stanley as an "intimate friend" of the Queen, much to the disgust of the *fidus Achates* of Royalty, the editor of *Truth* (not to be confused with the senior member for Northampton). But if Lady Augusta was not an "intimate" she was a "dear" friend of her Majesty, and was so described by the Sovereign to Dean Bradley, when on visiting the Abbey to inspect the Jubilee preparations she asked to be conveyed to the tomb of Dr. Stanley and his wife in Henry VII.'s Chapel. This was the Queen's first request, and it was not until she had lovingly deposited some choice flowers on the spot where repose the remains of Lady Augusta, that her Majesty paid any attention to the arrangements for the national thanksgiving. I believe this touching little incident was mentioned at the time; but it comes to me first hand from one of the principal dignitaries of the Abbey.

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By the way, the mention of the Abbey and the Jubilee reminds me of a *bon mot* uttered by one of the gilded functionaries on duty within the building, Lord Arthur Hill, I believe. While the long-suffering audience—I beg pardon, congregation—were wearily waiting for the arrival of the Queen, there was a sudden rush of "gold sticks" to the reception-room. Some one, a Bishop I fancy, asked the aforesaid gilded functionary if it was her Majesty who had arrived. "No," was the reply; "it is only a shower of blacks." And almost before the words were out of his mouth in marched his Highness the Maharajah Holkar and the other Asiatic potentates. Why Lord Salisbury did not immediately promote Lord Arthur or whoever was the author of the witty remark, still remains a dark and impenetrable mystery.

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The death of the Dowager Countess of Sheffield reminds us of a characteristic incident in the life of the late Earl. Some years ago a vicarage in his lordship's patronage fell vacant, and great was the number of applicants. No reply was made, but some three months afterwards a strange lady and gentleman were observed to attend both the services on a Sunday at a church in a neighbouring county. In the evening they sought an interview with the curate, and to his astonishment revealed themselves as my lord and lady. They had been making a tour, they said, in order to judge for themselves of the fitness of a selected number of applicants, and they had decided to present the living to him. The curate was a Nottingham man.

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I understand that the Earl of Derby's pecuniary interest in the National Liberal Club, from which he formally withdrew with considerable reluctance yesterday, amounts to about £10,000. His lordship is both a shareholder and a debenture holder. In some respects his secession is more important than that of the Marquis of Hartington, though not so serious as it would have been twelve months ago, when the numerous details connected with the erection of the palace on the Embankment were not finally settled. Lord Hartington, it would seem, was from the first only an ornamental member of the club; Lord Derby has been a great deal more than that, and if the National Liberals are as grateful to the ex-chairman of the Buildings Company as they ought to be, they will offer him a farewell dinner in their handsome house. Perhaps that might soften his lordship's heart and induce him to reconsider the decision he has come to, after apparently long consideration, to sever his connection with the only London club that has any pretence to call itself genuinely Liberal.

IMPRESSIONS OF GEORGE MEREDITH.

In an account of an interview with George Meredith, in the *British Weekly*, the writer says:—Mr. Meredith's eloquence is simply exhaustless. His memory is as capacious as De Quincey's, and his fund of ideas is almost beyond measure splendid. Drolleries, humours, witticisms he has, and a wonderful, unique trick of high, god-like chaffing; but these are nothing in comparison with his fancy and play of ideas. I am very conscious that, as a candid old critic of Mr. Meredith's acquaintance said of a certain poet, when asked how he could praise him, Mr. Meredith gives good dinners, and Mr. Meredith was with us longest and talked most eloquently after dinner. But this is not the reason for any apparently extravagant words I have used. As I look back now upon that evening, one of the chief impressions I find which it left upon me was Mr. Meredith's almost amphithean powers, the prodigality of his genius, like the prodigality of light. Ben Jonson has said of certain obscure writers of his time that "their writings need sunshine." Mr. Meredith's writings frequently need sunshine; but his speech never. This is what the personal contact gives, what the voice, the mouth, the eye, and the laugh may assure us—sunshine.

PANTOMIME BY TELEPHONE.

Through the National telephone last evening, remarks the *Sheffield Telegraph*, the Bradford pantomime of "Blue Beard" was listened to in our office, the songs and choruses being particularly clear. There is to be a connection to London by and by. Then we may take "Macbeth" at the Lyceum when we like, leaving the imagination to supply the scenery—"in the mind's eye, Horatio."

AN OCEAN MYSTERY.

A local gentleman, the captain of a passenger steamer trading between this country and the East, says the *Newcastle Chronicle*, tells a good story in a letter to his friends of a mystery connected with his vessel. The ship had been at sea for several days when complaints began to be made that passengers could not obtain the use of the bath. At a certain hour of the morning the bathroom was found to be locked inside; somebody was evidently within it, and at times, for an hour or more, no one could obtain admittance. This mysterious occupancy of the bathroom began to create comment, and doubtless some of the passengers became possessed of the idea that there was something "uncanny" about the ship. The complaints at length reached to such a degree that the skipper requested to be informed when the bathroom door was next found locked, and he would take means to obtain an entrance. On the following morning the unknown visitor was found to be within the room, for a noise was heard and admittance could not be obtained. The captain proceeded to the spot and demanded admittance. There was no reply. Then he proceeded to reason with the person he could not see, and finished with an angry threat that he would break the door open. The bolt was then heard going back inside, the door opened, and the mystery was explained. The offender was found to be a small boy—the son of a lady passenger, who, morning after morning, unknown to his mother, had slipped into the room, bolted the door, and filling the bath with water, sailed his toy boat upon it! He had his craft upon his own miniature sea when he was so unceremoniously disturbed. The elucidation of the mystery, it need scarcely be added, created a great deal of amusement on board the ship.

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SIR ROBERT MORIER AND COUNT BISMARCK.

MARSHAL BAZAINE'S LETTER.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence has been sent to the press by Sir Robert Morier, her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

British Embassy, St. Petersburg, December 19, 1888.

Monsieur le Comte,—The *Kölnische Zeitung*, of Sunday, the 16th inst., which I have just received, contains a scurrilous attack upon me, in which, amongst other charges, it brings that of my having, when her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Darmstadt, in 1870, betrayed the movements of the German army to Marshal Bazaine. I should have treated this outburst with the supreme contempt with which similar libellous attacks on the part of a portion of the German press have hitherto inspired me, were it not that I chanced, when in England last July, to hear that your Excellency had stated to more persons than one that a German Military Attaché at Madrid had reported that Marshal Bazaine had made to him a so-called revelation in the above sense. I did not do your Excellency the injustice of supposing that you believed in the truth of a story so palpably absurd, and with the imprint of a foul and impossible calumny so stamped upon it as to fall to pieces the moment it was seriously considered, nor insult you by crediting you with a cynicism so abnormal as to suppose that a man honoured with the friendship and confidence of the late Emperor Frederick could have been so unutterably base as to use that confidence and friendship to betray him and his army to the enemy. Nevertheless, I deemed it expedient to write, without loss of time, to Marshal Bazaine, and inquire into the truth of the alleged conversation. I received from him the emphatic denial, a copy of which, together with a copy of my letter to him, I have the honour to enclose herewith.

With this documentary proof of the incorrectness of the supposed conversation in your hands, I appeal, without any doubt as to the result, to your Excellency, as a gentleman and man of honour, to cause an immediate contradiction to be inserted in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* of the foul and infamous libel and calumny contained in the *Kölnische Zeitung*.—I have the honour to remain, Monsieur le Comte, your Excellency's obedient, humble servant, (Signed), R. B. D. MORIER.

His Excellency Count Bismarck.

40, Clarges-street, London, July 25, 1888.

Monsieur le Marechal.—It is said at Berlin that, in a conversation which your Excellency is alleged to have had with a Military Attaché of the German Embassy at Madrid, you stated that it was in consequence of a telegram which I addressed to you from Darmstadt, where I was then acting as her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, and in which I gave you details as to the movements of the Crown Prince's army, that you were enabled to attack the Germans and to cause them sensible losses.

I need not tell you that I absolutely disbelieve in this apocryphal conversation; but it is important that I should be able to prove, by a declaration coming directly from your Excellency, the absurdity of a myth which, childish and clumsily imagined as it is, is none the less insulting both to you and to me.

Be so kind as to send me your reply as soon as possible through Mr. William Macpherson, her Britannic Majesty's Consul, at the English Embassy, and believe the expression of my sentiments of perfect consideration.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER, late British Minister at Madrid, and at present the Queen's Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

His Excellency Marshal Bazaine.

Madrid, August 8.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,—Being absent from Madrid to take baths, I was unable to reply to your Excellency's letter on the subject of the alleged military conversation, which is an entirely clumsy fancy on the part of its supposed author. I had not the honour of knowing your Excellency before or during the war of '70, and deny, in the most unqualified manner, this apocryphal conversation, so outside all possible probability. I deny having had a conversation of the kind with any one whatsoever.

Forgive my bad writing, but my system has been so tried by the moral sufferings I have endured for twenty years that my nerves feel the effects.

Your kindness to me at Madrid is an agreeable recollection, which I do not forget, and I beg your Excellency to accept my best respectful sentiments.

(Signed) Marshal BAZAINE.

His Excellency Sir Robert Morier.

Friedrichsruh, December 25, 1888.

I have had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of the 19th inst. I regret that neither its contents nor its tone enable me to comply with your astonishing demand, and to step out of the limits imposed upon me by my official position in regard to the German press.

Accept the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) H. v. BISMARCK.

British Embassy, St. Petersburg, December 31, 1888.

M. le Comte,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, dated Christmas Day, in reply to mine of the 19th instant, and to state that, as you decline to dissociate yourself, either publicly or privately, from the monstrous calumny of my supposed betrayal of the Crown Prince's army to Marshal Bazaine, or to give publicity to the proofs with which I have furnished you in refutation of the story, I see no other course open to me but to publish our correspondence. For, right or wrong, the belief is general that the Berlin contributor to the *Kölnische Zeitung* derives his information from official quarters, and he himself does his best to produce this impression by appealing to sources of information necessarily secret and official. I do not say that I myself share this belief; but it is sufficient that it exists and is general. I must, therefore, in view of the refusal contained in your Excellency's letter, appeal under my own name to that publicity which my anonymous calumniators have so treacherously used against me.

I have the honour to be, M. le Comte, your Excellency's obedient humble servant, (Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

P.S.—It is not my intention ever again to notice the attacks of the *Kölnische Zeitung* and other analogous prints. Their refutation will be furnished beforehand by the absurdity of this latest libel, which will discredit any subsequent slanders that may be brought against me.

His Excellency Count Bismarck.

WHAT THE ENGLISH PAPERS SAY.

"A GENTLEMAN AND A MAN OF HONOUR."

The *Times* says:—"The necessity to which Sir Robert Morier has bowed in demanding the publication of this correspondence is no doubt painful, but it cannot be for a moment contested. We regret that this should be the result of an appeal to Count Herbert Bismarck as 'a gentleman and a man of honour.' The responsibility for a calumny so gross ought either to be manfully assumed or frankly repudiated. We may, however, take the liberty of pointing out to Prince Bismarck and his more youthful imitators that the easy movement of international intercourse, even between States which have their main interests in common, is not facilitated by the adoption of a tone of barrack-room manners, apparently copied from the worst days of Napoleon. We are, at this moment, allied with Germany on the coast of Africa, and events may bring about, for common objects, an alliance with her on other grounds. Prince Bismarck knows very well that England, with her naval supremacy and her power of the purse, is not a *quantité négligeable*. We wish, as we have always wished, to preserve and strengthen the good understanding with Germany which has now so long subsisted, but we must beg the German Chancellor and those who take their tone from him to treat English public men as English gentlemen and to curb the extravagance of invective and imputation which rages in the semi-official portion of the German press."

THE "PURE AFFECTATION."

The *Standard* says:—"The impression which impartial judges—in Germany, as well as in England—will derive is that Count Herbert Bismarck made the infelicity of the method in which a perfectly righteous demand was pressed a pretext for declining the amends which were due from one gentleman to another, and which, in the special case, considerations of international courtesy rendered peculiarly incumbent. Count Bismarck's reply is pure affectation. Every one knows the nature of the relations subsisting between the German Foreign Office and the German press. The slander was popularly regarded as inspired by the Chancellery, and the Chancellery declines to give the same patronage to the refutation that it did to the original attack."

THE DEGRADING TACTICS OF THE "KOLNISCHE."

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—"We do not and will not believe that Prince Bismarck and his son can view with anything short of disgust and revulsion the recent cunning, coarse, and base-minded assault upon a British Ambassador, in whose person this Rhine newspaper insults the Sovereign and the people of Great Britain. Great men do not deal with such petty and such poisoned weapons, and, so far as the answer of Count Bismarck implies that he has nothing to do with what the *Kölnische Zeitung* says or does, and heartily despises it, all is well and good. Nevertheless, in that case our representative's request for an official repudiation merited some other compliance which was possible, or at least a reply couched in language more suitable to the rank and character of Sir Robert Morier, and marked by a keener appreciation of what it means to accuse an English Ambassador of treachery, baseness, and falsehood. The honour of a British Ambassador is, all the same, part of our national honour, and, if there be no way at present in Berlin of repudiating calumnies against the Queen's Representative which pretend to be official, a way ought to be found."

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "KOLNISCHE?"

The *Daily Chronicle* says:—"Sir Robert Morier has taken the only course left open to him, of giving the lie direct to the calumnious accusation of the *Kölnische Zeitung*. Both the authority and the motive are now divulged, and the result is that the *Kölnische Zeitung* sinks, if possible, lower in the estimation of honest men than it has ever done before, degrading as is the price that it is news that are occasionally thrown to it. The charge, therefore, has recoiled upon the head of the accuser, who stands convicted of a monstrous calumny, and one, moreover, that the German Foreign Office—judging from the churlish tone of Count Herbert von Bismarck's refusal to do justice to Sir Robert Morier—must share with it."

The *Daily News* says:—"The Count's reply is in the most irascible style. It is a curt expression of astonishment at Sir Robert's demand, a severe rebuke of its tone, and a lofty refusal to aid the outraged Ambassador. Perhaps Sir Robert's letter to Count Bismarck displays rather more irritation than it is good for a diplomatist to show. On the other hand, the Count's reply entirely lacks any show of appreciation of his correspondent's position, and of the extreme provocation under which he writes."

WHAT THE FRENCH PRESS THINKS.

Outside Germany, says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, there is only one opinion as to the more than questionable nature of the persistent attacks that are being made against Sir Robert Morier, the representative of a friendly Power in a foreign country—nor, except in Germany, is the slightest importance attached to the revelations alleged to have been made to Major von Deines by Marshal Bazaine. The *Temps* points out implicit faith could never be reposed in Marshal Bazaine's word. Our French contemporary asks can it be possible that Sir Robert Morier and Marshal Bazaine had agreed to correspond in cipher through a third person in London? The bare idea is as absurd as the notion that the German telegraph officials would have forwarded a despatch relative to the military operations drawn up *en clair*.

A DISCLAIMER FROM COUNT HERBERT.

The *Kölnische Zeitung* denies the truth of the statement of a London paper to the effect that the making public of these assertions about Sir R. Morier is due only to Count Herbert Bismarck's bitter feeling against Sir Robert, because the former received a shot wound in the thigh in a battle asserted to have been caused by an alleged telegram from the Darmstadt envoy. How does it know? Surely Count Herbert Bismarck's "official position in regard to the German press" precluded him from sending communications to the *Kölnische?*

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S WELCOME HOME.

GREAT PREPARATIONS FOR TUESDAY'S FUNCTION.

The subscriptions to the various testimonials which are to be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain on Tuesday next have come up (says the *Birmingham Gazette*) to the most sanguine expectations, and altogether upwards of £700 has been collected. The arrangements are in an advanced state, and the gathering promises to be one of the most unique of its kind. The town hall will be made to represent a drawing-room, and the most elaborate decorations are contemplated. No one will be admitted to the special platform on the orchestra with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain and the house party at Highbury, which will include Mr. Chamberlain's six children, Mr. and Mrs. Edwardes, and Lady Mandeville. The principal guests will assemble on the floor of the town hall, and it is intended that they shall all be personally presented to Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain. An organ recital and vocal selections will precede the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain at the hall, and the right hon. gentleman is expected to speak about half-... acknowledging the various gifts. The three addresses which will be presented are of the most beautiful description. The address from the West Birmingham division takes the form of a triptych in solid silver, with gold monograms and enamelled medallions in relief. The gifts to Mrs. Chamberlain include a pearl necklet, valued at £400, a diamond star, and a suite of gold filigree jewellery. In addition to these presentations, it is now proposed on the same occasion to offer to Mrs. Chamberlain, on behalf of the working jewellers, a suite of gold jewellery for morning wear. It is intended that the present shall be manufactured in Mr. Chamberlain's own constituency—the West division.

DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM.

A missionary at Amoy, who has been "trying to understand the nature of the powers that be" in China, has discovered (says the *Christian World*) that the Chinese, so far from being petrified Conservatives, are really in their own way democratic. The Emperor and Mandarins are not unchecked autocrats, but entertain a wholesome dread of a fairly effective public opinion. The democracy of China is evident from the fact that the people can appeal from the lower to the higher officials, from the higher officials to Pekin. The people have exerted their power to put a stop to obnoxious industries; extensive trades have been extinguished, and Imperial examinations discontinued at their demand. Representatives of the people may rise to high offices. Local reforms are suggested and extensively carried out. There is real popular representation in China on a small scale and locally. The Elders in Kwangtung and heads of clans in Fuh-kien, &c., are representatives of the people so far as liability and responsibility to the higher powers are concerned. Even the Emperor is only the "Father of his people." He cannot go against the established code, nor arbitrarily add to or take from it.

MR. SANKEY CALLED HOME.

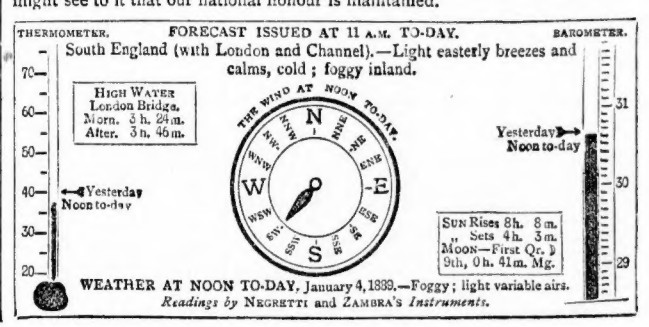
Mr. Sankey, having been suddenly called back home for a short time, has sailed for New York. He hopes, however, to return in the summer for a few months' work. Mr. Sankey has been invited by Mr. McAll, of Paris, to assist in holding meetings in that city during the exhibition. Though an Evangelist, he is not denominational. Mr. Sankey is helping to erect two churches in America, one at his former home, Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and the other at Northfield.

"NEITHER RENT, TAXES, NOR ARREARS."

Ere many days it is not improbable (writes a Stornoway correspondent), that the Lews may once again become the scene of agrarian disorder. Ominous signs of the activity and energy of agitators are again becoming prominent, and at any moment the storm may burst. At a meeting of crofters and cottars held at Tolsta Chaolais last week a resolution to pay neither rent, taxes, nor arrears met with great approval, although at the same time a proposal to take forcible possession of the farm of Linshader, when put to the meeting, received no great support. In the Lochs district a rumour as to a renewal of the deer raid has been current for some time past.

PASTEUR'S GRIEVANCE AGAINST ENGLAND.

M. Pasteur is much disappointed with the refusal of the English Government to contribute anything to the cost of endowing his Institute. He complains that a great many Englishmen come to him to be relieved from the horrors of hydrophobia, and that most of them are poor persons who cannot pay their way. It is, perhaps, not yet too late for the Treasury to reconsider its decision in this matter; but, at all events, says the *Leeds Mercury*, some wealthy Englishmen might see to it that our national honour is maintained.



WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE AT WORK.

THE AMERICAN ANSWER TO MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH, in a letter published yesterday, exhorts English advocates of women's suffrage, before they take the plunge, at least to make themselves acquainted with the result of American experience. He says:—

Before you take the plunge, at least make yourselves acquainted with the results of American experience. Female suffrage was tried in Nebraska and given up. It is still under trial in one territory (I believe Wyoming). The result seems to be a general refusal to try it elsewhere, and the criticism I have seen upon it in the press indicates that it only increases the evil of electioneering. The verdict, if adverse, is the more significant, because an almost fatuous woman worship prevails in the United States.

It is a great pity that Mr. Goldwin Smith could not take his own advice. At the present moment, woman suffrage is the rule not only in Wyoming but also in Washington territory. It is not under trial in Wyoming except in the same way as household suffrage is under trial in England. Woman suffrage has been established in the State of Wyoming, and the result was far from having been that which Mr. Goldwin Smith asserts; the experience of both Wyoming and Washington territory is altogether the opposite way. An anonymous and disappointed journalist some time ago published various statements that reflected upon the working of woman's suffrage in Wyoming which led to the immediate publication of authoritative testimonies from those best qualified to speak in Wyoming, which entirely demolished him and left Mr. Goldwin Smith not a leg to stand upon. The best way to prove this is to quote some of the testimonies in full. John W. Hoyt, late Governor of Wyoming, wrote:—"I declare in the most positive and solemn manner that woman's suffrage has accomplished much good here and is not chargeable with any discoverable social or political evil whatever." This testimony is the more remarkable because he came to Wyoming prejudiced against female suffrage and it was five years of careful observation and critical study of its practical working that so thoroughly converted him to the principle as to make him anxious to see it adopted throughout the entire country. Similar testimonies were published by Congressman Post, Chief Justice Kingman, and leading Government officials throughout the territory. Dr. Hayford, the editor of one of the Wyoming papers, wrote to Alice Stone Blackwell:—

Dear Madam,—I have been a continuous resident of Wyoming ever since before its organization; have been six years auditor of the territory, seven years postmaster at this city, and fifteen years editor of the *Laramie Sentinel*. After fifteen years of woman suffrage here I do not know of a person in the territory who does not most heartily endorse its results; and I do not think one could be found who would consent to its repeal, unless it be some one who belongs to that class who do not want to see good laws faithfully executed. . . . . The vicious and criminal classes instinctively fear and dread woman's power and influence in the Government. I have never seen or heard of a single bad result growing out of it. . . . . The influence of woman suffrage in Wyoming has been "only good, and that continually."

Curiously enough, Dr. Hayford says that he differs from most "woman suffragists" in advocating the married woman's suffrage on the ground that women will nearly always vote just as their husbands do. This is to him one of the strongest arguments in its favour, for it doubles the power and influence of the home element, which is always the best element in the government of the country. It is the parents who have homes who are the most interested in government; and he holds this opinion so strongly as to maintain that no single woman or single man ought to be allowed to vote at all. This aspect of the female suffrage question may be respectfully recommended to Miss Becker.

Women voted for the first time in Washington territory in 1884, so that their experience there has not been so long as that at Wyoming, where women have now enjoyed the vote for twenty years. The newspaper comments upon the first exercise of woman's suffrage in Washington territory are so much to the point that we venture to quote one or two of them to assist Mr. Goldwin Smith and his friends in their studies:—

The result shows that all parties must put up good men if they expect to elect them. They cannot do as they have in the past—nominate any candidates, and elect them by the force of the party lash.—*Olympia Transcript.*

The ladies are out in full force, and the scene at the polls is, to a stranger, a novel one. Their presence is, however, having the effect which always goes with the presence of a woman—men seem to have more respect for themselves. So much, at least, is the good wrought by women's presence at the polls.—*Seattle Daily Chronicle.*

When voting fairly commenced the sidewalks were almost impassable, but a passage way was always made the instant it was known that a lady wanted to vote. Not a rough word was said in her presence, and they were treated with the same deference and respect which they would have received had they been in their own homes. The ladies voted with rare good judgment, few of them casting a straight ticket.—*Dayton Chronicle.*

The history of woman's suffrage in Washington territory is rather curious. It was overthrown by judicial interference on account of a legal technicality in 1887, but it was restored by legislative enactment in 1888, in face of the bitterest opposition that the Goldwin Smiths of the territory could organize.

In Idaho and Montana, as the result of the successful experiments in Wyoming and Washington territories, it was reported at the Woman's International Council last year that woman suffrage was rapidly spreading.

The position of the woman voter in America is as follows:—Full woman suffrage, together with a right to sit on juries and to sit as justices of the peace, is conceded in Wyoming and Washington territories. Municipal woman suffrage has been established in Kansas with great success, and the school suffrage has been conceded in fourteen States and four territories. In Kansas Mrs. Johns reported that the result of the first election was to bury all the well-worn, "old-fogey" objections to woman suffrage. She says:—

Some of us voted with our husbands, some of us voted against; but the majority of us voted just as we pleased; just as nearly in accordance with our own convictions, and as little influenced by husbands, fathers, and brothers as men are. None of the dreadful difficulties always predicted as likely to result from woman's appearance at the poll happened. The elections under woman suffrage were the most orderly ever held in Kansas. Better men were elected to the municipal offices; the temperance vote was immensely strengthened, and the movement for compelling full suffrage in all political affairs received an immense accession of strength.

With one more extract from Mrs. Johns we will conclude, seeing that it bears upon the point that has always been harped upon by the opponents of woman suffrage—namely, the extraordinary doctrine that men would cease to be chivalrous if women were on the electoral register. Mrs. Johns says:—

In Kansas we do not lose a single bit of the generous attention of the men. They pick up our handkerchiefs just as they did before; they carry our parasols just the same; in fact, it is my honest conviction that we have greater respect from men than we had previous to our enfranchisement.

JENNY LIND ON SHELLEY'S POETRY.

"I once asked the late Mdme. Goldschmidt," says Mr. J. A. Symonds in his article on "Elizabethan and Victorian Poetry" in the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*, "why Shelley's lyrics were ill-adapted to music. She made me read aloud to her the 'Song of Pan' and those lovely lines 'To the Night,' 'Swiftly walk o'er the western wave, Spirit of Night!' Then she pointed out how the verbal melody seemed intended to be self-sufficing in these lyrics, how full of complicated thoughts and changeful images the verse is, how packed with consonants the words are, how the tone of emotion alters, and how no one melodic phrase could be found to fit the dædal woof of the poetic emotion.

Wrap thy form in a mantle gray,
Star-inwrought!
Blind with thine hair the eyes of day,
Kiss her until she be wearied out—

"How different that is," said Mdme. Goldschmidt, "from the *largo* of your Milton:—

Let the bright Seraphim in burning row,
Their loud uplifted angel-trumpets blow!

"How different it is from Heine's simplicity—

Auf Flügeln des Gesanges
Herz liebchen trag' ich dich fort.

"I can sing them," and she did sing them then and there, much to my delight; "and I can sing Dryden, but I could not sing your Shelley, Wordsworth, Keats; no, and not much of your Tennyson either. Tennyson has sought out all the solid, sharp words, and put them together; music cannot come between."

WILL THE JEWS GO BACK TO JERUSALEM?

THE REPLIES OF M. RENAN AND M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS.

IN Tuesday's Paris *Figaro* there is an interesting article entitled "Palestine for the Jews," in which the opinion of a number of eminent French men of letters who have written on the subject has been collected. The first to be interviewed was, naturally, M. Renan, whose answer is as characteristic as it is lively. The following is the literal translation:—

M. RENAN.

I remember how, on my first journey to Jerusalem, people talked of the creation of an independent and neutral Palestine, placed under the protection of great Powers and serving as a kingdom for the Israelites. Some thought that my mission was this political aim. Sir Oliphant (*sic*!) a mystic Protestant, was one of our party: he was continually quoting texts from the Bible prophesying the conversion of the Israelites to another religion: his own, as you may imagine. Another travelling companion, himself a Jew, on being consulted on the question, replied without hesitation that he preferred Brussels to Jerusalem.

I have never considered the plan to be realizable. Among other obstacles Turkey, the Catholics, and especially the Orthodox Catholics, who keep up the sacred fire in Palestine, would have to be removed. Was not the Crimean War brought about by the question of the sacred places? Personally, I see no objection why these latter should not be transported; but what should be done with the populations at present inhabiting Palestine, and what will the pilgrims say who go to Bethlehem and to the Mount of Olives?

Again, a nation cannot be transplanted, and it would besides be an injustice to attempt it. Localizations are possible; the re-constitution of a kingdom is chimerical. An army and a king would be required, and probably a Constitution. But above all there is this fact to be considered; the Semite element has assimilated too much of the habits and customs of the nations among which it has made its home, to be able to live a different life. The Israelites would never be able to do without the exchange of Paris, London, and Vienna, and home-sickness would soon disperse them again. The idea might at first appear as if it would be successful, but experience would, before long, show that it could not be carried out.

The solution: I am convinced that the solution of the Jewish question must not be looked for at Jerusalem. It is to be hoped that other countries will, without hesitation, adopt the Israelites and accord to them the same rights on the sole condition that they will not refer to their own laws (Thora or Talmud) in order to be exempted from the observation of the laws of their adopted country.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS.

M. A. Dumas was evidently too busy to be interviewed, and referred the *Figaro* to his preface to "La Femme de Claude," in which he has expressed his views on the Jewish question. He says, referring to a scene in the comedy:—

It is quite natural that, as Claude worked for the reconstitution of his dismembered country, so Daniel (who is a Jew) should have thought of finding again his lost country, re-establish the broken traditions rebuild his temple, and reunite in one group, in one nation, his brothers who are scattered over the globe.

May he succeed, and may his co-religionists soon be able to do without our hospitality, and we to do without their money which they lend us so generously in exchange, for the French nation is their much beloved brother, like Joseph was. Add this petition to your prayers, sir, and may the God of the Christians hear you, but I am afraid that the God of the Jews was not quite fair when he promised to his children the kingdom of the earth, and I begin to believe that the latter will soon leave nothing to us but heaven, about which they do not trouble themselves very much.

Where, for instance, is Daniel's common sense when he wants to reconstitute a local, definite, limited, fixed country for the persecuted conquerors who are at this moment about to buy up the world?

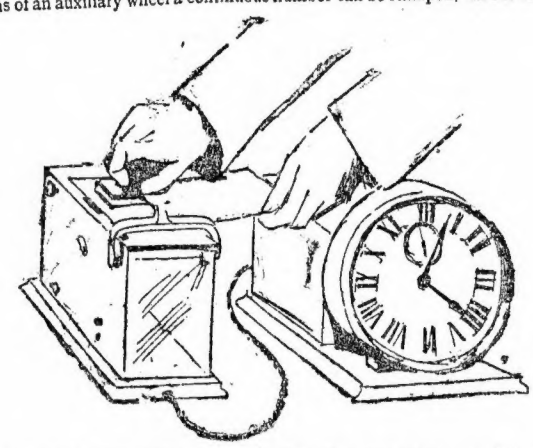
AN ELECTRIC DATE AND TIME STAMP.

THE latest product of American inventiveness brought under our notice is the electric date and time stamp. The inventor, Mr. C. Adams-Randall, who has contributed to our stock of devices in the fields of telegraphy and telephony, has in this instance combined with a clock and electric battery some ingenious mechanism by which date and time to the minute can be stamped instantaneously on a document. The practical utility is obvious. To a minute, and without any possibility of error, the arrival or departure of a telegram or letter can be recorded. By simply placing the paper under the stamp and pressing it down an impression such as this is obtained.

PALL MALL GAZETTE,
2, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET.
JAN. 1. A.M. 10.45. 1889.

The apparatus is automatic for thirty days at least. The mechanism may be multiplied so that it may work for a longer period without any manual movement, but it was found preferable, for the sake of simplicity and compactness, to change the month and year wheels manually. The year wheel is made in twelve parts, so that it runs for as many years, and then requires renewal. There are five type wheels with connecting gear disposed on a single axis, and the minute, the hour, the month, and the year are automatically and correctly placed in line under the impression pad.

The method of operation consists in actuating the minute wheel by an electric current from a battery transmitted through the medium of a circuit closer attached to any clock. The current serves to put tension upon a spring which mechanically moves the wheel once per minute. Upon the sixtieth movement of this wheel, the hour wheel is automatically moved, and upon the twenty-fourth movement of the hour, by a similar mechanical device, the day wheel advances one step at midnight, so changing the date. The operating of the minute, hour, and day wheels are thus automatic and mechanical. In addition to the address, time, and date, impressions can also be taken of such convenient terms as "received," "paid," and so forth, and by means of an auxiliary wheel a continuous number can be stamped. In our illustra-



tion a self-winding clock is used, but the apparatus can be set in motion in connection with any clock. Indeed, if desired, a number of instruments can be placed in circuit from one o'clock, so that uniform time may be secured. For railway purposes, for instance, the same time may be recorded through the whole of a company's system. A very small battery is required; preferably a two-cell Leclanche battery, which runs a machine for several months.

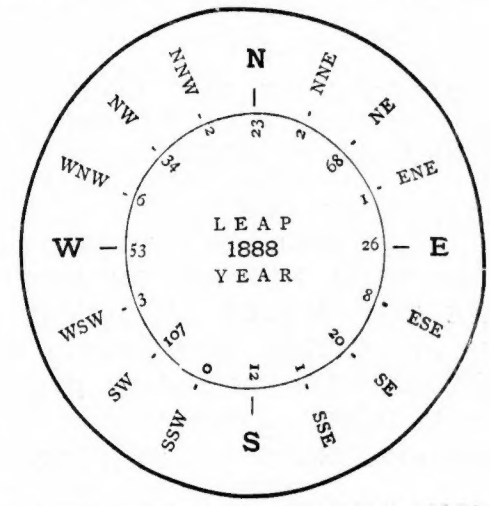
The first idea of the inventor was to devise an instrument to stamp telegraphic messages, so as to supersede the manual record, and, strangely enough, its first application in this country has been made by the Commercial Cable Company. An instrument has also been in use experimentally in our own telegraph department, and Mr. Preece, the electrician of the Post Office, has so far approved of it that he has given orders for special instruments. With respect to the adoption of the stamp for railway purposes, it is pointed out that if placed in a station or signal-box it could automatically record the arrival or departure of trains, the circuit being closed by the passing train. In many other ways the stamp may be utilized, and it is evident that we have here a new departure in the recording of dates and time. The apparatus has been in practical use at the offices of the company, at 19, St Swithin's-lane, for about twelve months.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ANEMOGRAPH.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—I enclose a sketch showing the number of days on which the various winds have blown during the past year. I have carefully compiled it



from the Meteorological Reports of the *Standard*, and you may rely on its accuracy. If you think it of sufficient interest to your readers, it is at your service.—I remain Sir, yours obediently,

Bath Cottage, Wallington, December 31, 1888. V. C. WEBB.

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DEBENHAM & FREEBODY beg to announce that their ANNUAL STOCKTAKING SALE COMMENCED on MONDAY, Dec. 31, and will be continued throughout the month of January.

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Believing that the philanthropic and Christian public will not allow a scheme so practical and so beneficial to the poor and to the interests of the State to fall to the ground for want of financial support,

FOUR large buildings have already been secured, in the following localities, viz.:—A Shelter for Women and Children only, to accommodate 250 per night (thus supplying 91,000 beds per annum) in the immediate neighbourhood of the late Hanbury-street tragedy.

A Shelter for Men at Clerkenwell with similar capacity.

A Food and Shelter Depot at Whitechapel capable of supplying 36,300 meals per week (or at the rate of 1,687,600 meals per annum) and of providing shelter for 150 men per night (52,500 beds per annum).

A Food Depot at Marylebone, to supply 4,000 meals per day, or 1,248,000 a year.

Similar buildings are being negotiated for at Shadwell, Bow, and Bermondsey. In connection with the Rescue work 30 more beds have been provided, and a new Home is about to be opened, which will enable 30 more girls, in addition, to be taken in.

While it is generally admitted by all sections of the Press and by our Statesmen that something ought to be done, no other adequate scheme has been put forward capable of meeting the needs of the hour, whereas this proposal is both practical and feasible (being the outcome of successful experiment), and is therefore worthy of the sympathy of every Philanthropist:

Francis Peek (For Rescue Work only)	£500	0 0	
A City Friend	600	0 0	
Madame Van Weede	250	0 0	
A Lady	200	0 0	
J. Cory	100	0 0	
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Rev. John Macnaught	25	0 0	
J. Harris Saunders	25	0 0	
Augustus Phillips	15	0 0	
Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P. (Solicitor-General)	10	10 0	
"W."	10	0 0	
J.G. Kershaw	10	0 0	
W. Kersey	10	0 0	
W. Mallinson	10	0 0	
Benjamin Scott (City Chamberlain)	5	5 0	
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J. Clondsley	2	2 0	
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Mrs. Floyd	2	0 0	
Mrs. J. Mounsey	2	0 0	
Sir P. J. Dorington, Bart.	2	0 0	
H. D.	2	0 0	
Owen Williams	2	0 0	
James Hope	2	0 0	
Mr. and Mrs. Nixon	1	10 0	
"L."	1	6 0	
A. G. Bickercarter	1	1 0	
James Phillips	1	1 0	
M. J. Lindsay, C.C.	1	1 0	
Clement Dukes, M.D.	1	1 0	
A. C. Bean	1	0 0	
Col. Pears	1	0 0	
G. M. H.	1	0 0	
F. Renard	1	0 0	
Robert Groom	1	0 0	
J. A. Moore	1	0 0	
J. Herington	1	0 0	
Rescue Homes	0	14 6	
Mrs. Ronald	0	10 6	
C. H. Harding	0	10 6	
F. G. Byles	0	10 0	
W. M. Bixley	0	10 0	
E. A. Lucas	0	10 0	

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The following Steamships belonging to the ORIENT AND PACIFIC COMPANIES leave LONDON as under, PLYMOUTH one day later, NAPLES nine days later, for ALBANY, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, and SYDNEY direct, with her Majesty's Mails, taking passengers for all Ports in AUSTRALASIA:—

	Tons.	H.P.	
AUSTRAL	5,588	7,000	Jan. 5.
IBERIA	4,702	4,200	Jan. 18.
ORMUZ	6,116	8,500	Feb. 1.
CUZCO	3,918	4,000	Feb. 15.
ORIENT	5,386	6,000	Mar. 1.
LUSITANIA	3,825	4,000	March 15.

The steamers will call at Colombo until further notice

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Cheap Single and Return Tickets.

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STEAM, LONDON TO AUSTRALIA, *viâ* Teneriffe and Cape of Good Hope. THE ABERDEEN LINE, s.s. *AUSTRALASIAN*, 3,630 tons, will leave the Royal Albert Docks on January 29th for MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY, taking passengers for all AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PORTS. The accommodation for first and third class passengers is very superior, and a surgeon and stewardess will be carried. Fares from 15 guineas. For freight or passage apply to GEO. THOMPSON and Co., 24, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

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PROSPECTUS.

The Brewery Business of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co., which has recently been converted into a limited Company, has been in existence for about two centuries, and, at the present time, is doing a trade which is only exceeded by three breweries in the United Kingdom, the duty paid in London and Burton, according to the latest published returns, having been £156,412.

The brewery premises and plant in London and Burton-on-Trent, together with the freehold and leasehold properties belonging to the Company, have been valued by Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis, and Clark at £817,123.

The Mortgage Loans held by the Company amounted, on the 15th of December last, to £1,241,024, after making ample provision for all doubtful debts.

The books of the firm have been examined by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., Chartered Accountants, who certify that the

Average net profits for the past 5 years were—
£211 102 9s. 6d.,

and that the net profits of the last year, from July 4th, 1887, to July 2nd, 1888, after making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, were £207,284 15s. 6d.

The annual interest on the Debenture Stock will amount to £48,000, while the income of the Company arising from profit rents and mortgage interest alone, exclusive of the profits of the Brewery Business, is certified by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. to be £84,416 9s. 3d.

The Debenture Stock and interest thereon is secured on the whole property and undertaking of the Company, and constitutes a first charge thereon. The security is effected as to the permanent properties by mortgage to the Trustees, and as to the rest by floating charge.

Interest on the Debenture Stock will be paid half-yearly, the first payment on July 1st, 1889, being calculated from the date of the payment of the instalments.

In cases where no Allotment is made the Deposit will be returned in full, and where the amount allotted is less than that subscribed for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the payment due on Allotment. Failure to pay any instalment will render the previous payments liable to forfeiture.

A quotation in the Official List of the London Stock Exchange will be applied for in due course.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company can be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Dawes and Sons, Solicitors to the Company, 9, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, London.

Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, or at the Temporary Offices of the Company.

4th January, 1889.

The following are copies of the certificates of Messrs. Farebrother, Ellis, Clark, and Co., and of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co.:—

29, Fleet-street, London, E.C.,
December 27th, 1888.

Gentlemen,—

We have surveyed and carefully considered the value of the several properties hereinafter mentioned and comprising:—

I. The Brewery Premises, situated at Brick-lane, Spitalfields, together with the very valuable plant. Also the area of ground used as stores and known as the Coverley Fields, within a short distance of the Brewery. These Premises together occupy a total area of nearly 8½ acres; of this 4¼ acres are freehold, and 4¼ acres leasehold.

II. The Leasehold Premises known as the Black Eagle Brewery and Maltings, together with the plant at Burton-on-Trent, immediately adjacent to the Burton station, and including altogether about 12 acres.

III. The 130 Freehold and 240 Leasehold Public-houses and Dwelling-houses, situated in London, Chatham, and elsewhere.

IV. The Freehold Maltings, Residence, and Farm of 50 acres at Halesworth, in the County of Suffolk.

V. The Black Eagle Wharf at Wapping (freehold).

We are of opinion that the several properties above mentioned are of the value of Eight hundred and seventeen thousand one hundred and twenty three pounds (£817,123).

We are,
Yours obediently,
(Signed) FAREBROTHER, ELLIS, CLARK, & Co.
Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, & Co.

41, Gresham-street, E.C.,
28th December, 1888.

Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co.,
Brick-lane, E.

Gentlemen,—

We have examined your books for the five years ending 2nd July, 1888, and find that the net profits have amounted in the five years to an average of £211,102 9s. 4d. per annum, and that for the period from the 4th July, 1887, to the 2nd July, 1888, they have amounted to £207,284 15s. 6d.

We further certify that the interest receivable on Mortgage loans and profit rentals, included in the above figures of £207,284 15s. 6d., amounted to £84,416 9s. 3d.

We are, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servants,
(Signed) PRICE, WATERHOUSE, & Co.

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